

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: CORNELIA F. ANGELES CORBETT, R.N.

ORDER

In accordance with §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021 and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), an informal conference was conducted on behalf of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on June 10, 2009, in Henrico County, Virginia. Cornelia F. Angeles Corbett, R.N., was present and was not represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On July 22, 2009, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Corbett was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel.

Based upon its review of the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate, the Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the following Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cornelia F. Angeles Corbett, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-133715 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on September 15, 1993. The license is current, and set to expire on January 31, 2010.
2. By letter dated April 23, 2009, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Corbett notifying her that an informal conference would be held on June 10, 2009. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 1621 Skipwith Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5253, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. Prior to the start of the informal conference, Ms. Corbett and the Agency Subordinate became aware that they shared a prior student/teacher relationship. However, the Agency Subordinate

indicated that she had not maintained a relationship with Ms. Corbett since that time, that she possessed no prior knowledge of the allegations against Ms. Corbett or of Ms. Corbett's employment history, and that she could make a fair and impartial decision based solely on the evidence presented at the informal conference. Ms. Corbett and the Agency Subordinate agreed to proceed with the informal conference after Ms. Corbett was given an opportunity for a continuance.

4. By her own admission, during the course of her employment with Tuckahoe Orthopedics Associates, Ltd., Richmond, Virginia ("Tuckahoe Orthopedics"), beginning in approximately 2003, Ms. Corbett fraudulently called in or wrote prescriptions for various Schedule II-VI medications for family members and a co-worker, using the name of a physician in the practice as the prescriber, and she picked them up or caused them to be picked up from at least two different pharmacies. She also diverted sample medication from the practice for her own personal and unauthorized use and for use by family members. As a result, her employment was terminated on August 8, 2008.

5. At the informal conference, Ms. Corbett stated that her husband sustained injuries in an automobile accident in January 2001, including a broken hip and pelvis, which caused him to be in constant pain. She reported that he had previously been treated by pain management specialists following eight surgeries, had been prescribed various medications, and had been receiving the same medications for the past eight years. According to Ms. Corbett, after the co-payments for doctor visits became too expensive, she began writing prescriptions for her husband for the same medications in the same dosages that had previously been prescribed to him using pre-signed prescription blanks belonging to the physician for whom she worked, which had been provided to her to fill out according to protocol for his surgical patients. Ms. Corbett also acknowledged that she wrote prescriptions for a co-worker for Sonata (zaleplon, Schedule IV). Additionally, Ms. Corbett stated that she took sample medications from work home to her husband, and that she had taken Bextra samples for herself, stating that it was a common practice at the

facility for employees to use sample medications, and that she did not realize this was not permissible. Ms. Corbett denied ingesting any of the other medications herself.

6. Ms. Corbett stated that she had been employed as a registered nurse at Tuckahoe Orthopedics since 1999. She also stated that she completed the nurse practitioner program in 1999 at Virginia Commonwealth University, but has not been employed as a nurse practitioner due to the fact that she has not successfully passed the examination for licensure. Ms. Corbett further stated that while she was employed at Tuckahoe Orthopedics, the expectation was that she would write orders for her physician's patients consistent with the physician's standard orders. The physician for whom Ms. Corbett primarily worked verified that Ms. Corbett was hired as a registered nurse, had been paid as a registered nurse, and had not functioned in any other capacity during her employment at Tuckahoe Orthopedics. Additionally, according to information received from the clinical manager at Tuckahoe Orthopedics, Ms. Corbett never appeared to be impaired while on duty, and had no practice related issues or disciplinary actions.

7. On May 5, 2009, Ms. Corbett pled guilty to one count of obtaining prescription drugs by fraud in the Circuit Court of Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Corbett was granted first-offender status, with a deferred finding of guilt, subject to certain terms and conditions, including, serving 100 hours of community service, submitting to substance abuse screenings, and having a restricted driver's license. Ms. Corbett stated that the urine drug screens she has submitted to thus far have all been negative, and that she is anticipating that the felony charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor. Ms. Corbett is to be reviewed for compliance with these terms and condition on November 12, 2009.

8. Ms. Corbett is currently employed at Henrico Doctors Hospital Parham campus, and supplied a positive letter of reference from the Director of Orthopedics, who has known and worked with Ms. Corbett since 2001.

9. At the informal conference, Ms. Corbett appeared credible and honest. She stated that she recognized that she has co-dependency problems and has sought counseling. She is also attending the Employee Assistance Program (“EAP”) through her employer and a support group.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (3) and (5) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(a), (c) and (e) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that Cornelia F. Angeles Corbett, R.N., be, and hereby is, placed on INDEFINITE PROBATION subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The period of probation shall begin on the date that this Order is entered and shall continue indefinitely.
2. Ms. Corbett shall inform the Board in writing within ten days of the date she begins nursing practice, or changes employment, or if any interruption in nursing practice occurs. Additionally, Ms. Corbett shall provide the name and address of each employer to the Board.
3. Ms. Corbett shall inform her current nursing employer and each future nursing employer that the Board has placed her on probation and shall provide each employer with a complete copy of this Order. If Ms. Corbett is employed through a staffing agency, she shall inform her supervisor in each facility where assigned that she is on probation.
4. Performance Evaluations shall be provided, at the direction of Ms. Corbett, by all nursing employers, as provided by the Compliance Division.
5. Ms. Corbett shall provide all current and future treating practitioners with a complete copy of this Order and shall execute an Authorization of Disclosure of Information form providing for unrestricted communication between the Board and any court-appointed probation or parole officers

and any consultants designated by the Board.

6. Ms. Corbett shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the online course offered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., entitled “Ethics of Nursing Practice,” within 45 days of the entry of this Order.

7. Ms. Corbett shall have a written report of her participation and compliance with the Henrico Doctors Hospital EAP’s recommendations submitted to the Board within 60 days after the date that this Order is entered. If ongoing EAP participation and/or counseling is recommended, written quarterly progress reports by the EAP counselor shall be sent to the Board by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December, until discharged from EAP participation. Ms. Corbett shall direct the EAP counselor to notify the Board if she withdraws from participation before being officially discharged.

8. Ms. Corbett shall submit quarterly “Self-Reports” which include a current address, telephone number, and verification of all current employment. These reports shall also include any changes in employment status. The first report must be received in the Board office no later than 60 days from the date this Order is entered. Subsequent reports must be received quarterly by the last day of the months of March, June, September and December until the period of probation ends.

9. Ms. Corbett shall return all copies of her license to practice as a licensed professional nurse to the Board office within ten days of the date of entry of this Order. Upon receipt of the old license and a \$5.00 fee, the Board shall issue a new license marked “Valid in Virginia Only; Probation with Terms.”

10. Ms. Corbett shall conduct herself as a licensed professional nurse, in compliance with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 30 of the Code, and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

11. This order shall be applicable to Ms. Corbett’s multistate licensure privilege, if any, to

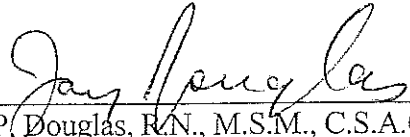
practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. For the duration of this Order, Ms. Corbett shall not work outside the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Ms. Corbett wishes to work. Any request for out of state employment shall be directed, in writing, to the Executive Director of the Board.

12. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Corbett, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide whether her license shall be revoked.

This Order is subject to appeal to the Board. If Ms. Corbett desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020 and 2.2-4021 of the Code, she must notify Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233, in writing, within thirty-three (33) days from the date of service of this Order. Upon the filing of a request for the hearing with the Executive Director, this Order shall be vacated.

Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director
Board of Nursing

Entered: August 5th, 2009

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed this day to Cornelia F. Angeles Corbett, R.N., at 1621 Skipwith Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229-5253.

Jay Douglas
Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director
Board of Nursing

August 5th, 2009
DATE

Certified True Copy

By clayton

Virginia Board of Nursing