

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: NINA M. MORRISON, 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 21, 2011, in Henrico County, Virginia. Nina M. Morrison, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Janet Younger, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On July 20, 2011, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Morrison was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Ms. Morrison submitted written comments/objections.

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. Nina M. Morrison, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-120558 to practice professional nursing in Virginia on August 29, 1990. The license is scheduled to expire on April 30, 2012. Her primary state of residence is Virginia. Previously, by Consent Order entered January 25, 1999, the Board indefinitely suspended Ms. Morrison's license based in part on her numerous involuntary commitments for psychiatric treatment and reports that she had exhibited bizarre behavior at work. Ms. Morrison's first petition for reinstatement of her license was denied by the Board by Order entered March 8, 2001. The Board reinstated the license by Order entered January 3, 2003, and placed Ms. Morrison on probation under certain terms and conditions, including continuing mental

health treatment. The Board notified Ms. Morrison on August 4, 2008, that she had successfully complied with the probation terms as set forth in the January 3, 2003, Order.

2. By letter dated May 5, 2011, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Morrison notifying her that an informal conference would be held on June 21, 2011. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 8805 Providence Ridge Court, Richmond, Virginia 23235, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The United States Postal Service web site indicated that notice of the certified mail was left at the address of record on May 5, 2011. The certified mail receipt was not returned to the Board office. The Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Morrison and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Since November 2010, Ms. Morrison has failed to comply with her medication regime for the treatment of her diagnosed schizoaffective disorder. In a letter to the Board dated February 22, 2011, her treating psychiatrist indicated that Ms. Morrison’s mental status had deteriorated. The psychiatrist expressed concerns about Ms. Morrison’s ability to function as a professional nurse.

4. During the course of her employment with Carriage Hill Health and Rehabilitation Center, Fredericksburg, Virginia, ending in November, 2010, Ms. Morrison was found sleeping on the job several times, and was not able to be found for periods of time during her shift. In addition, she was noted to exhibit increasingly poor judgment and decision-making and to be exceptionally moody and unusually sensitive to criticism. She was allowed to resign in lieu of termination.

5. Family members and other professionals interviewed by the investigator for the Department of Health Professions reported that Ms. Morrison had recently developed and acted upon an obsession with a Richmond-area physician with whom she had no relationship. She also expressed increasingly paranoid concerns that people were breaking into her home.

6. Ms. Morrison did not respond to efforts to contact her by the investigator for the Department of Health Professions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 4 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) and (6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-120558 of Nina M. Morrison, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED for a period of not less than two years.

2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

3. At such time as Ms. Morrison shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Morrison shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

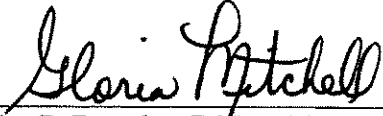
4. This suspension applies to any multistate privilege to practice professional nursing.

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.

Since Ms. Morrison failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Morrison has the right to appeal this Order directly to the appropriate Virginia circuit court. As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Ms. Morrison has thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date she actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to her, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M.,

C.S.A.C., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD


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

Entered: August 1, 2011