

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: JENNIFER OKWABI, L.P.N.
 License No.: 0002-082479**

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 March 10, 2015 in Henrico County, Virginia. Ms. Okwabi was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On May 20, 2015, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Okwabi 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. Jennifer Okwabi, L.P.N. was issued License No. 0002-082479 to practice practical nursing in Virginia on May 21, 2010. The license is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2015. Ms. Okwabi's primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated January 23, 2015, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Okwabi notifying her that an informal conference would be held on March 10, 2015. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 13930 Longwood Manor Court, Apt. 403, Woodbridge, Virginia 22191, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail receipt was returned to the Board office unsigned, marked "return to sender." 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. Okwabi and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. By Order of the Board entered May 1, 2014 (“Board’s Prior Order”), Ms. Okwabi was ordered to pay a monetary penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within 60 days of the Order’s entry. This Order was based on findings that she had worked for seven months with an expired license.

4. Ms. Okwabi has failed to pay the monetary penalty to date.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of Term No. 1 of the Board’s Order.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0002-082479 of Jennifer Okwabi, L.P.N. is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Okwabi shall submit the required monetary penalty of \$500.00, the suspension shall be lifted. Ms. Okwabi 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 practical nursing
5. Ms. Okwabi is hereby REPRIMANDED.

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. Okwabi failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Okwabi 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. Okwabi 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, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, 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

JPD
Kelina Mitchell-Lively
Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: *June 5, 2015*

Certified True Copy

By *Dr. Graham*
Virginia Board Of Nursing