

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: DEBORAH TOWNE, R.N.
 License No.: 0001-224889**

ORDER

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (“Code”), a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) met on February 6, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Deborah Towne, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Towne was not present and was not represented by legal counsel. Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Deborah Towne, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-224889 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on June 16, 2010. Said license expires on July 31, 2014. She also holds License No. 041230451 to practice professional nursing in Illinois, which is set to expire on May 31, 2014, and License No. 201143548 to practice professional nursing in Oregon, which is set to expire on July 12, 2014. She also held License No. 8000544 to practice professional nursing in California, which expired on August 31, 2012. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.

2. By letter dated January 13, 2014, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Towne notifying her that an informal conference would be held on February 6, 2014. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 120 W. Walnut, Unit 1, Herrin IL 62948, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The Notice was also sent to 11125 Stonebrook Drive, Manassas, Virginia 20112, a secondary address. The Notice sent by certified mail to the address of record was returned to the Board marked “NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED UNABLE TO FORWARD.” The signed

certified mail receipt for the Notice sent to the secondary address was received by the Board on February 4, 2014. The first class mailings were not returned to the Board office. The Committee Chair concluded that adequate notice was provided to Ms. Towne and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Cross Country Staffing, Boca Raton, Florida, while assigned to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia (“Inova”), during her 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift on March 13-14, 2013:

a. Ms. Towne failed to administer multiple scheduled medications in a timely manner to Patient A, but incorrectly documented in the patient’s record that all but one of the medications had been administered as scheduled.

b. Ms. Towne failed to administer Patient B’s 10:00 p.m. medications in a timely manner.

4. The staff at Inova found Ms. Towne to be flustered and disorganized. It was also noted that Ms. Towne minimized her errors by stating, “It was not a big deal.” There was no patient harm reported.

5. In a letter to the Board from Cross Country Staff dated March 27, 2013, it was reported that Ms. Towne’s contract with Inova had been cancelled and that her file with Cross Country Staffing was inactive “until complete Board resolution.”

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 3(a) constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(e) and (f) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (“Regulations”).

2. Finding of Fact No. 3(b) constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code, and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(2)(f) of the Regulations.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Deborah Towne, R.N., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Towne shall provide the Board with verification that she has completed the following National Council of State Boards of Nursing (“NCSBN”) online courses within 60 days of the entry of this Order: Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses and Medication Errors: Detection & Prevention.
3. Ms. Towne shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.
4. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or of any law or regulation affecting the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall constitute grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of Ms. Towne and an administrative proceeding shall be convened to determine whether such license shall be suspended or revoked.

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4023 and 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 public record and shall be made available for public inspection or copying on request.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400(10) of the Code, Ms. Towne may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on April 7, 2014, notify Jay P. Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, in writing that she desires a formal administrative hearing before the Board. Upon the filing with the Executive Director of a request for the hearing, this Order shall be vacated.

FOR THE COMMITTEE:

for *Alexis Mitchell*
Jay P. Douglas, M.S./M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: *March 5, 2014*

This Order shall become final on April 7, 2014, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.

Certified True Copy

By *Steph [Signature]*
Virginia Board of Nursing