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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions
Board of Nursing

Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
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July 18, 2002

Linda H. Sterling
P. O. Box 24
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

CERTIFIED MAIL
7160 3901 9844 7518 3554

Dear Ms. Sterling:

Enclosed is a certified true copy of the Order entered by the Virginia Board of Nursing, which reinstates your license as a professional nurse contingent upon certain terms and conditions, as stated in your order.

After 33 days, someone from the Compliance Unit will be contacting you to discuss the terms of your Order and your license will be mailed to you under separate cover.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Assistant Executive Director

JPD/klb
Enclosure

- cc: Robert Nebiker, Director, Department of Health Professions
- James Banning, Director of Administrative Proceedings Division
- Gayle E. Miller, Senior Adjudication Analyst
- Donna P. Whitney, L.P.N., C.S.A.C., Intervention Committee Manager
- Katherine G. Wax, Compliance Manager
- Debbie Wintermantel, Senior Investigator (82575)
- Grace Floyd, Program Support Technician

*Virginia Board of Nursing 1903 - 2003
Regulating Nursing - Protecting the Public*

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

LINDA HUFF STERLING

ORDER

Pursuant to § 2.2-4019, § 2.2-4021, § 54.1-2400(10) and § 54.1-3010 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended (the "Code"), a Special Conference Committee ("Committee") of the Board of Nursing met on June 26, 2002, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon evidence regarding the petition of Linda Huff Sterling for reinstatement of her license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was indefinitely suspended by an Order of the Board entered December 5, 1997, and to receive and act upon evidence that Ms. Sterling may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the practice of professional nursing in Virginia. Ms. Sterling was present and was not represented by counsel. Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Committee adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Linda Huff Sterling, R.N., previously held License No. 0001-086839 to practice professional nursing, which was issued by the Board, and indefinitely suspended by an Order of the Board entered December 5, 1997.
2. Ms. Sterling was properly noticed for this informal conference by letter dated May 3, 2002.
3. Ms. Sterling stated to members of the Committee a sobriety date of October 16, 1996.
4. Ms. Sterling provided to the Committee evidence of continuing education courses in Nursing to prepare her for a position in Nursing.

5. Ms. Sterling stated to members of the Committee that she has been offered a nursing position in a dialysis setting which will include six (6) weeks of training.
6. On or about January 9, 1998, Ms. Sterling signed a Participation Contract with the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program ("HPIP"), pursuant to Chapter 25.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code, and 18 VAC 76-10-10, et seq., of the Regulations Governing the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program. On August 31, 2000, Ms. Sterling signed a Recovery Monitoring Contract which is effective for five (5) years from the date of signature. Nancy Hickman, Case Manager, stated to members of the Committee that Ms. Sterling has been in compliance with her contract since January 9, 1998.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Committee concludes that Linda Huff Sterling has met the requirements of § 54.1-3009 of the Code and that she is competent to return to the practice of nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients, subject to certain restrictions, as more fully set forth below.

ORDER

On the basis of the foregoing, the Committee, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby **ORDERS** that the license of Linda Huff Sterling to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, License No. 0001-086839, be, and hereby is, **REINSTATED**, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Ms. Sterling shall comply with all terms and conditions for the period specified by the HPIP.
2. Any violation of the terms and conditions stated in this Order shall be reason for revoking the license of Ms. Sterling, and an administrative proceeding shall be held to decide

whether her license shall be revoked. Ms. Sterling shall be noticed to appear before a Committee at such time as the Board is notified that:

- a) Ms. Sterling is not in compliance with the terms and conditions specified by the HPIP, or has been terminated from participation in the HPIP, or
- b) There is a pending investigation or unresolved allegations against Ms. Sterling involving a violation of law, regulation or any term or condition of this order, or,
- c) Ms. Sterling has successfully completed the specified period of participation in the HPIP. However, upon receipt of evidence of Ms. Sterling's participation in and compliance with the HPIP, the Committee, at its discretion, may waive Ms. Sterling's appearance before the Committee, and conduct an administrative review of this matter.

Pursuant to § 2.2-4023 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.

If Ms. Sterling does not consent to the Committee's decision and desires a hearing before the Board or a panel thereof, she shall notify, in writing, Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 6606 W. Broad Street, Fourth Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1717 within thirty-three (33) days from the date of entry of this Order. This Order shall become final upon the expiration of the thirty-three (33) day period unless a written request for a formal hearing is received within such time. Upon receiving timely request for a hearing, the Board or panel thereof shall then proceed with a hearing as provided in § 2.2-4020 and § 2.2-4021 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

FOR THE BOARD

Jay Douglas
for Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director for the
Board of Nursing

July 18th, 2002
ENTERED

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a certified true copy of the foregoing Order was mailed on this day to Linda Huff Sterling, at Post Office Box 24, Gloucester, Virginia 23061.

Jay Douglas
Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director for the
Board of Nursing

July 18th, 2002
Date

Certified True Copy

By DL 7/18/02
Virginia Board of Nursing