

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE:        IRIS U. MARTIN, R.N.**  
**License No.: 0001-070275**

**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 August 27, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia. Iris U. Martin, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Janet B. Younger, R.N., P.N.P., Ph.D., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On November 19, 2013, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Martin 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. Iris U. Martin, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-070275 on September 1, 1978 to practice professional nursing in Virginia. The license expired on September 30, 2013. Her primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated August 6, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Martin notifying her that an informal conference would be held on August 27, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 311 Barrett Street, Richlands, Virginia 24641, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail was delivered on August 12, 2013; the Notice sent by first class mail was not returned to the Board office. The Notice was also sent to 56

Griffith Street, Castlewood, Virginia 24224, a secondary address. The certified mail was returned to the Board office marked "unclaimed;" 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. Martin, and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Ms. Martin was hospitalized on February 19 and May 12, 2013, due to a longstanding history of bipolar disorder and schizoaffective disorder.

4. In a letter to the investigator from the Department of Health Professions dated June 10, 2013, Ms. Martin's psychiatrist for the past 13 years reported that Ms. Martin has severe bipolar disorder with psychosis and that she has not practiced nursing for several years due to the severity of her symptoms. He also reported that Ms. Martin is not currently safe to practice nursing, and that he does not think she has any plans to return to nursing.

5. Ms. Martin was previously enrolled in the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program and successfully completed the program in 2008.

6. A report from the Virginia Employment Commission dated June 12, 2013, confirmed that Ms. Martin was last employed in March, 2011.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

### **ORDER**

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The right of Iris U. Martin, R.N., to renew License No. 0001-070275 is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.
2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.
3. At such time as Ms. Martin shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an

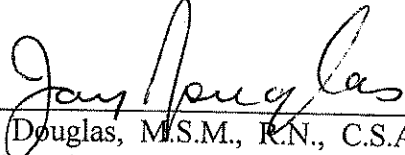
administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of professional nursing. Ms. Martin shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement and renewal of the license prior to issuance of the license to resume practice.

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

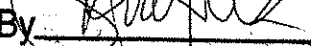
Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Since Ms. Martin failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Martin 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. Martin 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, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, at Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. In the event that this decision is served by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.

FOR THE BOARD:

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

Certified True Copy

By:   
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: December 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2013