

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

**CHRISTINA VERNOCY, R.M.A.
Registration No.: 0031-005888**

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 September 26, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia. Christina Vernocy, R.M.A., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Jane Elliott, R.N., 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. Vernocy 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. Christina Vernocy, R.M.A., was issued Registration No. 0031-005888 to practice as a medication aide in Virginia on May 30, 2012. The certificate is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2014.
2. By letter dated August 30, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Vernocy notifying her that an informal conference would be held on September 26, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 280 Witch Hazel Trail, Winchester, Virginia 22602, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The receipt for the Notice sent via certified mail was signed and returned to the Board's 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. Vernocy and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. During the course of her employment with Spring Arbor Winchester, Winchester, Virginia, on April 2, 2013, at 0230, Ms. Vernocy falsely documented administering two dosage units of Percocet (oxycodone, Schedule II to Resident A on her Medication Administration Record when, in fact, Resident A was in the hospital at the time.

4. In an interview with a Department of Health Professions Investigator, Ms. Vernocy claimed she mistakenly gave the narcotic to another resident, and she denied diverting any medications. Ms. Vernocy also said that this was her first and only mistake. However, several residents complained that that they were not getting their pain medications when Ms. Vernocy was on duty. Ms. Vernocy's employment with Spring Arbor Winchester was terminated following the incident on April 3, 2013. As of April 9, 2013, Ms. Vernocy was not employed.

5. According to documentation from Spring Arbor Winchester, there were no signs of impairment by Ms. Vernocy at work.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(2), (5), and (8) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-60-110(A)(2) and 18 VAC 90-60-120(2)(b), (d), (f), (l), and (m) of the Regulations Governing the Registration of Medication Aides.

ORDER


WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. Christina Vernocy, R.M.A., is hereby REPRIMANDED.
2. Ms. Vernocy shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a medication aide commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

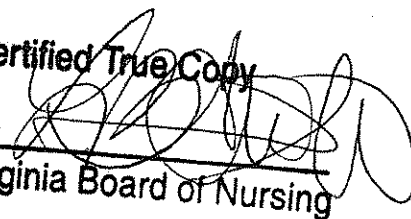
Pursuant to § 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Since Ms. Vernocy failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Vernocy 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. Vernocy 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., 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


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

Entered: December 6th, 2013

Certified True Copy
By 
Virginia Board of Nursing