

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: LATOYA JOHNSON, R.N.
License No.: 0001-233499

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 October 7, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that LaToya Johnson, R.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations governing professional nursing practice in Virginia. Ms. Johnson was present and was not represented by counsel.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Committee adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. LaToya Johnson, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-233499 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on September 7, 2011. Said license expires on May 31, 2015. Ms. Johnson’s primary state of residence is Virginia.
2. By letter dated September 11, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference (“Notice”) to Ms. Johnson notifying her that an informal conference would be held on October 7, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to 250 Candy Grove Road, Spencer, Virginia, 24165, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing.
3. By her own admission, during the course of her employment with Franklin Health and Rehab Center, Rocky Mount, Virginia, on February 14, 2013, Ms. Johnson incorrectly transcribed a physician’s order for Resident A’s blood-thinning medication, Lovenox, resulting in the resident receiving at least four

doses in a six-hour period rather than one dose in a 12-hour period. Specifically, she misread the physician's order, which called for "Lovenox 70 mg sc q12," as "Lovenox 70 mg q/2."

4. Resident A was hospitalized for a gastric bleeding and died shortly thereafter due to an acute gastrointestinal bleed secondary to a Lovenox overdose.

5. Ms. Johnson's employment with Franklin Health and Rehab Center was terminated.

6. At the time of the incident, Ms. Johnson had been licensed as a professional nurse for less than 18 months, and she cited her lack of experience as a contributing factor to the medication error. At the informal conference, Ms. Johnson admitted to the error and expressed remorse. The director of nursing for the facility stated that Ms. Johnson was a conscientious nurse.

7. Ms. Johnson expressed that since the incident, she has changed her practice and carefully reviews all physician's orders to ensure patient safety.

8. Ms. Johnson is currently employed by Morehead Hospital, Eden, North Carolina. She stated that her nursing practice has benefited greatly during her employment at Morehead due to better systems, more support and more educational opportunities.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Finding of Fact No. 3 constitutes a violation of § 54.1-3007(5) and (8) of the Code.

ORDER

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

1. The Committee shall TAKE NO ACTION at this time, contingent upon Ms. Johnson providing the Board with verification that she has completed the following NCSBN online courses within 30 days of the date this Order becomes final: *Medication Errors: Detection & Prevention* and *Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses*.

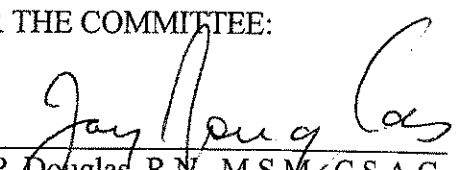
2. Ms. Johnson shall maintain a course of conduct in her capacity as a professional nurse commensurate with the requirements of § 54.1-3000 *et seq.* of the Code and the Board of Nursing Regulations.

3. 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. Johnson 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. Johnson may, not later than 5:00 p.m., on November 27, 2013, notify Jay P. Douglas, 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:



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

ENTERED: _____

October 25th, 2013

This Order shall become final on November 27, 2013, unless a request for a formal administrative hearing is received as described above.