

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE: PAULA L. RICE, L.P.N.

ORDER

Pursuant to § 54.1-100 and § 54.1-3010 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, a Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing met on August 27, 1992, to receive and act upon evidence that Paula L. Rice, L.P.N., may have violated certain laws and regulations regarding the practice of nursing, as more fully set forth in a Notice of Informal Conference dated July 30, 1992, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein (Attachment #1).

Paula L. Rice, L.P.N., appeared in person before the Special Conference Committee and tendered the voluntary surrender of her license to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

WHEREFORE, the Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby accepts the voluntary surrender of License No. 0002-023113, issued to Paula L. Rice, to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and ORDERS that said license be and hereby is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED. At such time as she shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, a hearing will be convened to receive evidence satisfactory to the Board that Ms. Rice is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of nursing.

Pursuant to § 9-6.14:14 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, 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.

FOR THE BOARD

Patricia W. Williams RN
Patricia W. Williams, R.N.
President

Entered: September 23, 1992

Received: September 24, 1992

By: Bernard L. Henderson, Jr.
Bernard L. Henderson, Jr., Director
Department of Health Professions



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

Bernard L. Henderson, Jr.
Director

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July 30, 1992

CERTIFIED MAIL
P 629 378 557

Paula L. Rice, L.P.N.
1203 W. High Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23803

Dear Ms. Rice:

This is official notification that an Informal Conference will be held, pursuant to § 54.1-100 and § 54.1-3010 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, on Thursday, August 27, 1992, at 10:00 a.m., in the offices of the Department of Health Professions, 1601 Rolling Hills Drive, Conference Room 3, Richmond, Virginia.

The Special Conference Committee, which is comprised of three members of the Virginia Board of Nursing, will inquire into allegations that you may have violated certain laws and regulations relating to nursing practice in Virginia and the terms and conditions as stated in your Consent Order entered by the Virginia Board on Nursing July 24, 1990.

Specifically, § 54.1-3007(2), (3) and (6) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, § 4.1B(3) and (5) of the Board of Nursing Regulations and paragraphs #5, #6 and #9 of the terms and conditions of probation of the Consent Order entered July 24, 1990 by the Board of Nursing may have been violated in that:

1. On July 24, 1990, a Consent Order was entered by the Board of Nursing placing on probation your license to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse due to diversion of Percocet, a Schedule II controlled substance.
2. You have not continued with the weekly sessions with Dr. Matthew B. Nio, as recommended by your therapist and as part of your aftercare therapy, which is in violation of terms #5 and #6 of the terms and conditions of probation.
3. By your own admission, on May 30, 1991, you altered a prescription for Lorcet Plus, a Schedule III controlled substance, in that you changed the refill amount from one to two.
4. From January 29, 1992 to February 14, 1992, you received inpatient treatment at John Randolph Hospital for substance abuse dependence. Your discharge diagnosis was stated as opiate dependence, severe.

You may be represented by an attorney at the informal conference. After the conference, the Conference Committee is authorized to take the following actions:

1. If the committee finds that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further action or that the charges are without foundation, the committee shall notify you by mail that your record has been cleared of any charge which might affect your right to practice nursing in the Commonwealth;

2. The committee may place your license on probation with such terms as it may deem appropriate;

3. The committee may reprimand you;

4. The committee may impose a monetary penalty pursuant to § 54.1-2401 of the Code; or

5. The committee may refer the case to the Board of Nursing or a panel thereof for a formal hearing. If the Conference Committee is of the opinion that a suspension or revocation of your license may be justified, the committee may offer you a consent order in lieu of a formal hearing.

If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Conference Committee will proceed to hear the case in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above.

At least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date of the conference, please inform this office of your telephone number and whether you intend to appear at the conference. This can be done by calling our offices at (804) 662-9909 or by sending us a letter at the address listed above. If you have any additional documents to be presented to the Conference Committee, please bring five (5) copies of each document with you.

Enclosed you will find copies of the relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which governs proceedings of this nature, as well as the laws and regulations relating to the practice of nursing in Virginia.

Sincerely,



M. Teresa Mullin, R.N., M.S.
Assistant Executive Director

MTM/clh
Enclosures

cc: Mary Frances Grasty, L.P.N., Chairperson
Marguerite R. Jordan, R.N., Member
Judy B. Collins, R.N., L.N.P., Member
Clyde W. Mathews, Jr., Assistant Attorney General
Faye T. Lemon, Chief of Investigations
Wayne J. Farrar, Director of Public Information