

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: CARRIE BERKEL, R.N.
License No.: 0001-241049**

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 May 7, 2013, in Henrico County, Virginia. Carrie Berkel, R.N., was not present nor was she represented by legal counsel. Judith Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., serving as Agency Subordinate for the Board, submitted a Recommended Decision for consideration.

On July 16, 2013, a quorum of the Board met to receive and act upon the Recommended Decision of the Agency Subordinate. Ms. Berkel 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. Carrie Berkel, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-241049 to practice professional nursing by the Virginia Board of Nursing on October 9, 2012. Said license is set to expire on July 31, 2015. Ms. Berkel also holds expired practical nursing and professional nursing licenses in West Virginia. Her primary state of residence is West Virginia.

2. By letter dated April 11, 2013, the Board of Nursing sent a Notice of Informal Conference ("Notice") to Ms. Berkel notifying her that an informal conference would be held on May 7, 2013. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to HC 69, Box 1400-5, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia 24986, the address of record on file with the Board of Nursing. The certified mail and first class mail were not returned to the Board's office. The Agency Subordinate concluded that adequate notice

was provided to Ms. Berkel, and the informal conference proceeded in her absence.

3. Ms. Berkel was involuntarily admitted to Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health, Salem, Virginia, on November 25, 2012, where she was diagnosed with major depressive disorder-severe, suicidal ideation, post-traumatic stress disorder, and panic disorder.

4. Ms. Berkel has experienced depression since her teenage years and has attempted suicide in the past. In addition, Ms. Berkel did not follow-up with her psychiatrist after her discharge from Lewis Gale Center for Behavioral Health.

5. Ms. Berkel failed to respond to the Department of Health Professions investigator's attempts to contact her.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 4 constitute a violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.

ORDER

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. License No. 0001-241049 of Carrie Berkel, R.N., is INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

2. The license will be recorded as suspended and no longer current.

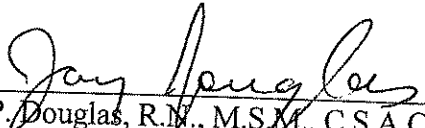
3. At such time as Ms. Berkel shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, an administrative proceeding will be convened to determine whether she is capable of resuming the safe and competent practice of nursing. Ms. Berkel shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the 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. Berkel failed to appear at the informal conference, this Order shall be considered final. Ms. Berkel 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. Berkel 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, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., 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, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

Entered: August 7th, 2013

Certified True Copy

By 

Virginia Board of Nursing