

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: SARAH CLEVELAND WAITE, R.N.  
License No.: 0001-204019**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to §§ 2.2-4020, 54.1-110 and 54.1-2400(11) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), a formal administrative hearing was held before a panel of the Board of Nursing ("Board") on July 14, 2014, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Sarah Cleveland Waite, R.N., may have violated certain terms and conditions imposed on her, as set forth in the Order of the Board entered on July 17, 2013. The case was presented by Jan Willis, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. Charis A. Mitchell, Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Waite was present and was not represented by legal counsel. The proceedings were recorded by a certified court reporter.

Upon consideration of the evidence presented, the Board adopted the following Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Sarah Cleveland Waite, R.N., was issued License No. 0001-204019 to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on October 3, 2006.
2. By Order of the Board entered July 17, 2013 ("Board Order"), Ms. Waite's license to practice professional nursing was indefinitely suspended with the suspension stayed contingent upon Ms. Waite's compliance with the terms and conditions of the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"). The stay was summarily rescinded on March 26, 2014 after the Board received notice that she was dismissed by HPMP on March 21, 2014.
3. Ms. Waite relapsed on Ritalin, Tramadol, and alcohol between October 2013 and January 9, 2014.

4. Ms. Waite was hospitalized for psychiatric stabilization on January 20, 2014, and was treated from January 21, 2014 until she was successfully discharged on February 2, 2014. HPMP placed Ms. Waite on warning status and required her to refrain from practice.

5. On February 12, 2014, Ms. Waite informed her HPMP case manager that she was going to resign from HPMP and stated that she had no desire to return to practice at this time. Ms. Waite submitted her letter of resignation to HPMP on February 19, 2014 while in warning status with the program.

6. Ms. Waite was dismissed from the HPMP on March 21, 2014 for noncompliance.

7. Ms. Waite's sponsor testified that Ms. Waite has been working through the 12 Steps and is making progress in her recovery. Ms. Waite has been involved in therapy with the same substance abuse treatment provider for the last three and a half years. Her therapist testified at the hearing on her behalf.

8. Ms. Waite testified that she is an addict and has had problems with relapses. She has been focused on her recovery. She told the Board that nursing is not something she can pursue at this point in her life and that she needs to not practice in order to pursue her recovery because she has all of the support she needs. She does not want to return to HPMP at this time but believes she could consider it in the future. She has not set a goal date to return to practice but she hopes that one day when she is stable in her recovery she can return to the nursing profession.

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

The Board concludes that Finding of Fact No. 6 constitutes a violation of Term No. 5 of the Board Order.

#### ORDER

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. License No. 0001-204019 issued to Sarah Cleveland Waite, R.N., to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is hereby INDEFINITELY SUSPENDED.

2. The license of Ms. Waite will be recorded as SUSPENDED and no longer current. Should Ms. Waite seek reinstatement of her license consistent with this Order, she shall be responsible for any fees that may be required for the reinstatement of her license prior to issuance of her license to resume practice.

3. At such time as Ms. Waite shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her license, a hearing will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

4. This Order shall be applicable to Ms. Waite's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice practical nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
ENTERED

Certified True Copy

By draham  
Virginia Board Of Nursing

**NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL**

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, MSM, RN, CSAC, FRE, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.