VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

IN RE:

CHRISTINE MARY GAITHER, R.N.

License Nos.: 0001-171042

ORDER

In accordance with Section 54.1-2409 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, ("Code"), I,

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D., Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions, received

and acted upon evidence that the State of California Board of Registered Nursing revoked the license of

Christine Mary Gaither, R.N., to practice as a registered nurse in the State of California by Default

Decision and Order effective March 28, 2013. A certified copy of the Default Decision and Order is

attached to this Order and is marked as Commonwealth's Exhibit No. 1.

WHEREFORE, by the authority vested in the Director of the Department of Health Professions

pursuant to Section 54.1-2409 of the Code, it is hereby ORDERED that the license of Christine Mary

Gaither, R.N., to practice as a professional nurse in the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and hereby is,

SUSPENDED.

Pursuant to Sections 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 a public record and shall be

made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

**Certified True Copy** 

By Andrea Butter

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D., Director

Department of Health Professions

ENTERED:

7-17-13



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D. Director

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

www.dhp.virginia.gov TEL (804) 367- 4400 FAX (804) 527- 4475

#### CERTIFICATION OF DUPLICATE RECORDS

I, Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D., Director of the Department of Health Professions, hereby certify that the attached Default Decision and Order effective March 28, 2013, regarding Christine Mary Gaither, R.N., are true copies of the records received from the State of California Board of Registered Nursing.

Dianne L. Reynolds-Cane, M.D.

Date: 7-17-13

# **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING** DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 2012-659

#### CHRISTINE MARY GAITHER

Respondent.

DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

4253 Smithsonia Drive Tucker, GA 30084

[Gov. Code, §11520]

Registered Nurse License No. 618558

13

6

7

8

10

11

12

14 15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

**FINDINGS OF FACT** 

- On or about April 26, 2012, Complainant Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN, in her official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, filed Accusation No. 2012-659 against Christine Mary Gaither (Respondent) before the Board of Registered Nursing. (Accusation attached as Exhibit A.)
- 2. On or about May 15, 2003, the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) issued Registered Nurse License No. 618558 to Respondent. The Registered Nurse License expired on May 31, 2005, and has not been renewed.
- On or about April 26, 2012, Respondent was served by Certified and First Class Mail copies of the Accusation No. 2012-659, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Discovery Statutes (Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7) at Respondent's last address of record and another address. Respondent's last address of record was: 4253 Smithsonia Drive, Tucker, GA 30084. The other address served was 5061 Gatehouse Way, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

27

28

4.

. 

 Business and Professions Code section 124 and Government Code section 11505.

5. On or about May 30, 2012, one of the mailings to the address of record was return

Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of

- 5. On or about May 30, 2012, one of the mailings to the address of record was returned by the U.S. Postal Service marked "Not Delivered As Addressed, Unable to Forward" and on or about June 22, 2012 the other was returned by the U.S. Postal Service marked "Unclaimed." The address on the documents was the same as the last address on file with the Board.
  - 6. Government Code section 11506 states, in pertinent part:
  - (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense, and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.
- 7. Notice having been given under Business and Professions Code section 124, Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon her of the Accusation, and therefore waived her right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. 2012-659.
  - 8. California Government Code section 11520 states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent.
- 9. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on the relevant evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this matter, as well as taking official notice of all the investigatory reports, exhibits and statements contained therein on file at the Board's offices regarding the allegations contained in Accusation No. 2012-659, finds that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2012-659, are separately and severally, found to be true and correct by clear and convincing evidence.
- 10. Taking official notice of its own internal records, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3, it is hereby determined that the reasonable costs for Investigation and Enforcement is \$357.50 as of June 27, 2012.

### **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

- Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Christine Mary Gaither has subjected her Registered Nurse License No. 618558 to discipline.
  - The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- The Board of Registered Nursing is authorized to revoke Respondent's Registered 3. Nurse License based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation which are supported by the evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this case:
- Violation of Business and Professions Code section 2761(a)(4) on the grounds of a. unprofessional conduct because she was disciplined by the Virginia Board of Nursing in February 2008 for stealing narcotics from two different employers in 2006 and 2007 and disciplined again by the Virginia Board in 2009 for failing to comply with its substance abuse treatment program.

```
711
111
111
///
711
111
```

.3

.17

.19

///

# ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 618558, heretofore issued to Respondent Christine Mary Gaither, is revoked. Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute. 

> It is so ORDERED FEBRUARY

> > DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10919056,DOC DOJ Matter ID:LA2012602499

Attachment:

Exhibit A: Accusation

Exhibit A

Accusation -

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California KAREN B. CHAPPELLE		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General GEOFFREY WARD		
4	1 2 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	•	
5	31		
6	1 =		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10		1 2 6 6	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2012-659	
12	CHRISTINE MARY GAITHER	ACCUSATION	
13	4253 Smithsonia Drive Tucker, GA 30084		
14	Registered Nurse License No. 618558		
15	Respondent.		
16	Complainant alleges:		
17	PARTIES		
18	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., R.N. ("Complainant") brings this Accusation solely in her		
19	official capacity as the Interim Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board"),		
20	Department of Consumer Affairs.		
21	2. On or about May 15, 2003, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number		
22	618558 to Christine Mary Gaither ("Respondent"). The Registered Nurse License expired on		
23	May 31, 2005 and has not been renewed.		
24	JURISDICTION		
25	3. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") provides, in pertinent		
26	part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an		
27	part, that are board may discipline any needsee, including a needsee nothing a temporary of an		
28			
11			

inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with Code section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.

- 4. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Section 2811 subdivision (b) of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 5. Sections 118 subdivision (b) of the Code also grants the Board jurisdiction over suspended, expired, forfeited, cancelled, or surrendered licenses:

"The suspension, expiration, or forfeiture by operation of law of a license issued by a board in the department, or its suspension, forfeiture, or cancellation by order of the board or by order of a court of law, or its surrender without the written consent of the board, shall not, during any period in which it may be renewed, restored, reissued, or reinstated, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee upon any ground provided by law or to enter an order suspending or revoking the license or otherwise taking disciplinary action against the licensee on any such ground."

#### **STATUTES**

6. Section 2761 of the Code provides grounds for disciplinary action:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (4) Denial of licensure, revocation, suspension, restriction, or any other disciplinary action against a health care professional license or certificate by another state or territory of the United States, by any other government agency, or by another California health care professional licensing board. A certified copy of the decision or judgment shall be conclusive evidence of that action."

#### COST RECOVERY

7. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

· 19

#### **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

- 8. Dilaudid, also known as hydromorphone, is a narcotic classified as a Schedule II controlled substance under California Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (b)(1)(j) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 9. Demerol, also known as meperidine, is an opiate classified as a Schedule II controlled substance under California Health and Safety Code section 11055, subdivision (c)(17) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Disciplinary Action by the Virginia Board of Nursing)

- 10. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Section 2761 subdivision (a)(4) of the Code on the grounds of unprofessional conduct because she was disciplined by the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Virginia Board"), as follows:
- Respondent's Virginia nursing license in the disciplinary action entitled, In Re: Christine Gaither, R.N. In that disciplinary action, the Virginia Board found and Respondent admitted that she had twice stolen prescription narcotics from her employers: in September 2006, she stole Dilaudid and Demerol from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia; and in March 2007, on her first day of orientation at Chesapeake General Hospital in Chesapeake, Virginia she stole Dilaudid and Benadryl, used them, and then appeared lethargic and confused, resulting in her termination. The Virginia Board concluded she had a substance abuse problem and ordered her to participate in a treatment program.
- 12. On or about August 6, 2009, the Virginia Board issued a second decision indefinitely suspending Respondent's Virginia nursing license after she failed to comply with the substance abuse treatment program. The Board found she had missed a drug screening, had failed to inform employers of her history of chemical dependence, had failed to disclose controlled substance prescriptions, and failed to arrange for a chemical dependency assessment. For this conduct, she was terminated from the substance abuse program. The Virginia Board's decision concluded that she was unsafe to practice due to continued use of narcotic pain and sleep medications.

1	13. Under Section 2761 subdivision (a)(4) of the Code, the Virginia Board's disciplinary	
2	actions against Respondent for stealing and using controlled substances and for failing to	
3	complete her substance abuse treatment program are grounds for the California Board to take its	
4	own disciplinary action.	
5	<u>PRAYER</u>	
.6	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged,	
7	and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:	
8	1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 618558, issued to	
9	Christine Mary Gaither;	
10	2. Ordering Christine Mary Gaither to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the	
11	reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and	
12	Professions Code Section 125.3; and,	
13	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.	
14		
15	DATED: April 24, 2012 LOUISER, BAILEY, M.Ed. R.N.	
16	LOUISE R. BAILEY, M.Ed., R.N. Interim Executive Officer Board of Registered Nursing	
17	Department of Consumer Affairs State of California	
18	Complainant LA2012602499	
19	51088516.docx	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
	4	

#### **BEFORE THE**

# **BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

# **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

CHRISTINE MARY GAITHER

Case No. 2012-659

Registered Nurse License No. 618558

Respondent

# ORDER CORRECTING CLERICAL ERROR IN DECISION AND ORDER

On its own motion, the Board of Registered Nursing (hereafter "Board") finds that there was a clerical error in the Decision and Order in the above-entitled matter and that such clerical errors should be corrected so that it will conform to the Board's intention as follows:

On or about February 26, 2013 a Decision and Order was issued adopting
the Proposed Decision which erroneously showed the signature Louise R.
Bailey as Board President.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the documents on file in our office.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

Louise R. Bailey, M. ED., RN

**Executive Officer** 



IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the signature on that Decision and Order in the above-entitled matter be and is hereby amended and corrected nunc pro tunc as should be as follows:

Board of Registered Nursing,

President

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California"

IT IS SO ORDERED this 28th day of February, 2013.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

**PRESIDENT** 

DEPRTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

VIRGINIA:

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN RE:

CHRISTINE MARY GAITHER, R.N.

License No.: 0001-171042

# CONSENT ORDER

The Virginia Board of Nursing ("The Board") and Christine Mary Gaither, R. N., as evidenced by their signatures affixed below, agree to enter into this Consent Order affecting the license of Ms. Gaither to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board adopts the following findings of fact in this matter:

- 1. Christine Mary Gaither, R.N., was issued license number 0001-171042 by the Board to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia on September 14, 2000. Said license is active and will expire on April 30, 2014, unless renewed or otherwise restricted. Ms. Gaither's primary state of residence is Virginia.
- 2. By Order entered February 14, 2008, the Virginia Board of Nursing took no action contingent upon Ms. Gaither's compliance with her Recovering Monitoring Contract with the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP") (formerly the Health Practitioners' Intervention Program "HPIP") for the period specified by the contract. This action was based upon Ms. Gaither's admission that during the course of her employment with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia in September 2006, and her employment with Chesapeake General Hospital in Chesapeake, Virginia, in March, 2007, she diverted Dilaudid, Demerol and Benadryl for her personal and unauthorized use.

- 3. By Order entered August 6, 2009, the Virginia Board of Nursing suspended Ms. Gaither's license to practice nursing for not less than two years. This action was based on Ms. Gaither's violation of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code and her violation of Term #1 of the Board's Order entered on February 14, 2008, in that the Board's Order required that she remain in compliance with her HPMP Recovery Monitoring Contract that she signed on October 16, 2007. Ms. Gaither had not been compliant with her HPMP contract, in that she missed a urine drug screen; she failed to inform her health care providers of her history of chemical dependence; she failed to notify the HPMP staff when she was prescribed controlled substances; and she failed to arrange for a chemical dependency assessment as requested by the HPMP.
- 4. By Order entered April 18, 2012, the Board reinstated Ms. Gaither's license to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, contingent upon her continued compliance with the terms and conditions of the HPMP for the period specified by the HPMP.
- 5. By Default and Decision Order effective on March 28, 2013, the State of California Board of Registered Nursing revoked the Registered Nurse License issued to Christine Mary Gaither, R.N. This action was based solely on the Virginia Board's Order of entered February 14, 2008 and subsequent Order entered August 6, 2009.
- 4. By Order entered July 17, 2013, the Director of the Department of Health Professions mandatorily suspended Ms. Gaither's license pursuant to Section 54.1-2409 of the Code due to the action of the California Board.

# CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

This matter of the reinstatement of Ms. Gaither's license to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia is properly before the Board.

# **CONSENT**

- I, Christine Mary Gaither, R.N., by affixing my signature hereto, acknowledge that:
- 1. I have been advised specifically to seek the advice of counsel prior to signing this document;
- 2. I am fully aware that without my consent, no legal action can be taken against me, except pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000.A <u>et seq.</u> of the Code of Virginia;
  - 3. I have the following rights, among others:
    - a. the right to an informal conference before the Board; and
    - b. the right to appear in person or by counsel, or other qualified representative before the agency.
  - I waive all rights to an informal conference;
  - 5. I admit the truth of the above Findings of Fact; and
- 6. I consent to the following Order affecting my license to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

# <u>ORDER</u>

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and with the consent of the licensee, it is hereby ORDERED that the license of Christine Mary Gaither, R.N., to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, be, and hereby

Consent Order - Christine Mary Gaither, R.N. Page 4 of 5

is, REINSTATED effective July 17, 2013, pursuant to the terms and conditions placed on

her as referenced in the Board's Order of April 18 2012.

Ms. Gaither shall maintain a course of conduct in her practice of nursing

commensurate with the requirements of Title 54.1, Chapter 29 of the Code and all laws of the

Commonwealth.

Pursuant to Section 54.1-2400.2 of the Code, the signed original of this Consent 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.

FOR THE BOARD:

President, Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED: Jaly 17, 2013

Certified True Copy

By Andrea Butler

Virginia Board Of Nursing

Consent Order - Christine Mary Gaither, R.N. Page 5 of 5

SEEN AND AGREED TO:

Christine Mary Gaither, R.N.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BEACHTO WIT:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, the undersigned Notary Public, in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at large, this Aug of Aug of Aug., 2013, by Christine Mary Gaither, R.N.

MELISSA TAN
NOTARY PUBLIC
REGISTRATION # 7! 42594
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
DECEMBER 31, 2016

Notary Public

Registration Number:

My commission expires: 12 31 20