



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Director

Department of Health Professions

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NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

March 3, 2015

Christine Stolba, R.N. Reinstatement Applicant
4405 Barford Court
Chantilly, Virginia 20151

CERTIFIED MAIL
9414 7266 9904 2003 2621 07

Re: VA License No.: 0001-189081
Suspension Date: June 6, 2011

Dear Ms. Stolba:

This is official notification that an informal conference will be held pursuant to §§ 2.2-4019, 2.2-4021, and 54.1-2400(10) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended ("Code"), **April 1, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 201, Henrico, Virginia 23233. You may be represented by an attorney at the conference. This informal conference will be convened as a public meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3700 *et seq.* of the Code.

The Special Conference Committee ("Committee"), which is comprised of at least two members of the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board"), will receive and act upon your application for the reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which was suspended by an Order of the Board entered June 6, 2011 ("Board's Order") and will inquire into evidence that grounds may exist to deny your application.

Specifically,

1. You may have violated §54.1-3007(6) of the Code in that you may be unsafe to practice nursing due to substance abuse, mental illness and/or physical disability, as evidenced by the following:

a. Since May 2012, you have received counseling with the Community Mental Health Center, Chantilly, Virginia. As recently as December, 2014, your diagnoses include anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, opioid dependency, sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic dependency, and personality disorder. During treatment you have displayed drug seeking behavior as evidenced by admitting that you want the "immediate kick" of opiates and specifically requesting benzodiazepines. Furthermore, you have not been truthful with your providers at the Community Mental Health Center regarding medications received from other providers.

Board of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology – Board of Counseling – Board of Dentistry – Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers
Board of Long-Term Care Administrators – Board of Medicine – Board of Nursing – Board of Optometry – Board of Pharmacy
Board of Physical Therapy – Board of Psychology – Board of Social Work – Board of Veterinary Medicine
Board of Health Professions

b. On or about October 27, 2014, you admitted to borrowing Ambien from your friends and indicated to your counselor that you wished that you had some Valium.

c. Between or about February 2011 and October 2014, you were either seen at, or admitted to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia, approximately 19 times for headaches, pain, anxiety, and/or opioid abuse/dependency. At a majority of the visits, you were prescribed narcotic medications.

d. On or about May 8, 2014, while at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, you requested a prescription for pain medication. The physician wrote you a prescription for four tablets of Vicodin and you threw the prescription at the R.N. and left the facility.

e. Between or about January 1, 2012, and December 1, 2014, you have been prescribed narcotic and other controlled substances, including Valium, Percocet, Dilaudid, Xanax, Lunesta, Ambien, Adderall and Suboxone by 11 providers and you have had your prescriptions filled at nine pharmacies. As recently as May, 2014, the pharmacy advised your physician at Chantilly Family Medicine, Chantilly, Virginia, that they could not fill your prescription for Valium because you had not been using your medication as prescribed.

2. You may have violated §54.1-3007(1) of the Code and 18 VAC 90-20-300(A)(1)(b) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing in that on your application for reinstatement of your license to practice professional nursing, received by the Board on October 14, 2014, you answered "no" to the question asking if you had a mental, physical or chemical dependency condition which could interfere with your current ability to practice nursing.

The burden rests on you to demonstrate that you are prepared to resume the safe and competent practice of professional nursing.

Since the allegations listed above involve impairment, please be advised that you may make application to the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program ("HPMP"), which is available to all health care practitioners licensed in Virginia. Information about the HPMP is enclosed. Should you enter into a written agreement with the HPMP prior to your informal conference, the Committee will take that into consideration when deciding your case.

After the informal conference, the Committee is authorized by § 54.1-2400(10) of the Code to take any of the following actions:

- The Committee may reinstate your license to practice professional nursing in the Commonwealth without restriction;
- The Committee may reinstate your license and place you on probation for such time as it may designate and subject to such terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate, reprimand you, or impose a monetary penalty;
- The Committee may deny your application for reinstatement of your license;

Further, the Committee may refer the case to the Board of Nursing or a panel thereof for a formal hearing.

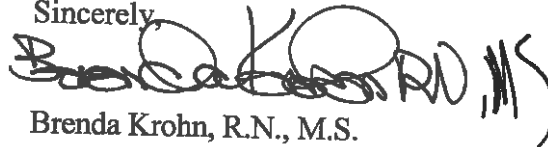
If you fail to appear at the informal conference, the Committee may proceed to hear the case in your absence and may take any of the actions outlined above. At least ten days prior to the scheduled date of the conference, please inform this office at (804) 367-4515, or in writing at the address listed above, of your telephone number and whether you intend to appear at the informal conference.

To facilitate this proceeding, you should submit five copies of any documents you wish the Committee to consider to the Department of Health Professions, Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233, by March 25, 2015. Your documents may not be submitted by facsimile or email.

You have the right to the information on which the Board will rely in making its decision. Therefore, I have enclosed a copy of the documents that will be distributed to the members of the Committee and will be considered by the Committee when discussing any allegations with you and when deliberating on your case. **These documents are enclosed only with the original notice sent by certified mail, which you may be required to claim at the post office. Please bring these documents with you to the informal conference.**

Relevant sections of the Administrative Process Act, which govern proceedings of this nature, as well as laws relating to the practice of nursing and other healing arts in Virginia cited in this notice, can be found on the Internet at <http://leg1.state.va.us>. To access this information, please click on the *Code of Virginia* for statutes and *Virginia Administrative Code* for regulations.

Sincerely,



Brenda Krohn, R.N., M.S.
Deputy Executive Director

BK/lba

Enclosures

cc: Anne G. Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
Special Conference Committee Members
Wendy Deaner, Adjudication Specialist
Joyce Shelton-Jones, Senior Investigator (Case No. 159809)
Patricia Sheehan, Senior Investigator (Case No. 159809)
Peggy Wood, Monitoring Program Manager