

**VIRGINIA:**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN RE: KAREN HANCOCK, C.N.A. REINSTATEMENT APPLICANT  
CERTIFICATE NO.: 1401-056527**

**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 18, 2011, in Henrico County, Virginia, to receive and act upon Karen Hancock's application for reinstatement of her certificate to practice as a nurse aide in Virginia, which was mandatorily suspended by an Order of the Virginia Department of Health Professions entered November 6, 2009, and to inquire into evidence that Ms. Hancock may have violated certain laws and regulations governing nurse aide practice in Virginia. The case was presented by Amanda E. M. Blount, Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division. Howard M. Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General, was present as legal counsel for the Board. Ms. Hancock 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 Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Karen Hancock, C.N.A., previously held Certificate No. 1401-056527 to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Said certificate was mandatorily suspended by an Order of the Virginia Department of Health Professions entered November 6, 2009.
2. Pursuant to Code of Virginia § 54.1-2409, Ms. Hancock submitted an application for reinstatement of her certificate, which was received by the Virginia Board of Nursing on April 13, 2011.
3. On September 23, 2009, Ms. Hancock pled guilty to and was convicted of credit card theft, a

felony, in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia. This conviction formed the basis for the suspension of her certificate to practice as a nurse aide by the Virginia Department of Health Professions on November 6, 2009. Ms. Hancock was sentenced to one year of incarceration with all time suspended upon conditions. She was also placed on one year of supervised probation, and ordered to pay costs and restitution. She tested negative for illegal substances while on probation, and successfully completed her supervised probation on September 23, 2010. She has satisfied all court costs and restitution related to this conviction.

4. On June 4, 2009, Ms. Hancock pled guilty to and was convicted of two counts of misdemeanor credit card fraud in the Circuit Court of the City of Salem, Virginia. She was sentenced to 12 months of incarceration with all but 11 months and 26 days suspended upon conditions. She was also ordered to pay costs and restitution. She has satisfied all court costs and restitution related to these convictions.

5. On February 5, 2009, Ms. Hancock was initially involuntarily hospitalized at the Lewis–Gale Center for Behavioral Health, Salem, Virginia, before being admitted voluntarily. By her own admission, she was abusing Klonopin (clonazepam, Schedule VI) and alcohol. She was discharged on or about February 9, 2009, with diagnoses of benzodiazepine and alcohol dependence, depressive disorder NOS, and borderline personality disorder.

6. Ms. Hancock acknowledged a history of depression. She has also received diagnoses of panic disorder, bipolar I, anxiety disorder NOS, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

7. Ms. Hancock is currently taking the following prescribed medications: Klonopin 1mg tid, Flexeril 10 mg, Synthroid 50 mg, and Estrace 3 mg. She is also currently under the care of a psychiatrist, her general practitioner and a social worker. Ms. Hancock has been determined to be permanently mentally disabled and receives disability, but Ms. Hancock reported that this disability is not SSI.

8. Ms. Hancock testified that she has worked as a private sitter to a regular client for the past year.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Board concludes that:


1. Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 4 constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(4) of the Code.
2. Findings of Fact Nos. 5 and 6 constitute violations of § 54.1-3007(6) of the Code.
3. Ms. Hancock has not demonstrated satisfactory evidence that she is prepared to resume practice in a safe and competent manner.

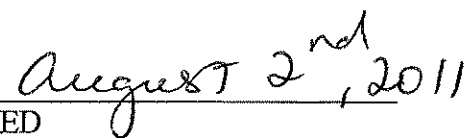
**ORDER**

WHEREFORE, the Virginia Board of Nursing, effective upon entry of this Order, hereby ORDERS that the application of Karen Hancock for reinstatement of Certificate No. 1401-056527 to practice as a nurse aide in the Commonwealth of Virginia be and hereby is DENIED, due to a failure to obtain the affirmative vote for reinstatement of three-fourths of the members of the Board at the hearing. Further, it is hereby ORDERED that the certificate of Ms. Hancock be CONTINUED on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION. At such time as she shall petition the Board for reinstatement of her certificate, a hearing will be convened to determine whether she is able to return to safe and competent practice as a nurse aide.

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

  
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Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C.  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Nursing

  
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ENTERED

**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, R.N., M.S.M., C.S.A.C., 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.