

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
 CARIDDAD GIRLIE CERIN BAUTISTA * BOARD OF NURSING
 LICENSE NO.: R246906 * OAG CASE NO. 23-BP-024
 * * * * *

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE
 PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-226(c)(2) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
 ACT**

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the “Board”) hereby orders the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of the license of **CARIDDAD GIRLIE CERIN BAUTISTA** (the “Respondent”), License Number **R246906**, to practice as a **REGISTERED NURSE** in the State of Maryland. The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article (“SG”) § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), which provides:

- (2) A unit may order summarily the suspension of a license if the unit:
 - (i) finds that the public, health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action; and
 - (ii) promptly give the licensee:
 - 1. Written notice of the suspension, the finding and the reasons that support the finding; and
 - 2. An opportunity to be heard.

The Board has reason, as set forth below, to find that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action (“SG”) § 10-226(c) (2).

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT
 OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Based on investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

- 1. On or about February 9, 2021, the Respondent was issued a license to practice as a

¹The allegations set forth in this document are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the Board’s action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this action.

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registered nurse (“RN”) in the State of Maryland, license number R246906. The Respondent’s RN license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2025. The Compact² status of the Respondent’s Maryland RN license is “Multistate.”

BACKGROUND

Maryland RN Endorsement Application

2. On or about April 9, 2019, the Respondent submitted to the Board an online Maryland Endorsement Application for RN Licensure (“RN Application”).
3. On her RN Application, the Respondent indicated that she graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing- West Palm Beach, Florida (“Palm Beach School of Nursing”) on and received an Associate’s Degree. The Respondent’s state of original licensure was by exam in New York.
4. On her RN Application, the Respondent affirmed and agreed to the following statement: “I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge.” The Respondent was advised that “providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board, and may result in denial of licensure.”

NCLEX-RN Documentation

5. The Respondent’s NURSYS NCLEX-RN³ documentation indicates that the Respondent graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing in West Palm Beach, Florida in December 2017, applied to take the NCLEX-RN through application to the New York State Education Department (“New York Board”), and sat for the NCLEX-RN on February 16, 2019. The New York Board

² The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is an agreement between Boards of Nursing of party states that allows nurses to have one Multistate nursing license with the ability to practice nursing in both their home state and other party states. In accordance with the Nurse Licensure Compact, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-7A-01.3(h) and § 8-7A-01.3(m) respectively, “Home state” means the party state that is the nurse’s primary state of residence and, “Party state” means any state that has adopted this Compact.

³ NCLEX-RN is an acronym for the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nursing.

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issued the Respondent a license to practice as an RN in New York on or about March 4, 2019. The Respondent's New York RN license number 765146 is active, unencumbered, and due to expire on January 31, 2025.

**United States District Court for the District of Maryland
Criminal Complaint**

6. On or about July 8, 2021, in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, Case No. 21-mj-2014-TJS, Johanah Napoleon was indicted on charges of (1) Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; (2) Conspiracy to Commit False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters; and, (3) False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters. According to the *Affidavit in Support of Criminal Complaints and Arrest Warrants*, Johanah Napoleon conspired with two other individuals and submitted false statements relating to health care matters by working together to sell fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and coached these unqualified individuals to pass the nursing board exam. Subsequently, these unqualified individuals obtained employment at various healthcare providers in the District of Maryland.

**United States District Court Southern District of Florida
Criminal Information**

7. On or about June 2, 2022, in the United States District Court Southern District of Florida, Case Number 22-60118, Johanah Napoleon was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud. According to the *Criminal Information* ("Florida Charges"), Johanah Napoleon conspired with two other individuals to unlawfully enrich themselves by selling false and fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicated that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and mailed and/or caused others to mail fake diplomas, fraudulent transcripts, and other false documents to state licensing agencies on behalf

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of the purchasers. Using the false and fraudulent diplomas and transcripts, Johanah Napoleon and her co-conspirators assisted the purchases of the false and fraudulent documents to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

Affidavit of Johanah Napoleon

8. In an affidavit notarized and signed on June 7, 2022, Johanah Napoleon declared under penalty of perjury that the following “is true and correct to the best of [her] knowledge”:

I owned and operated the following schools:

....

Med-Life Institute WPB LLC (“Med-Life”) from September 28, 2015 until it was dissolved on September 23, 2016. Med-Life was located at...West Palm Beach, FL...Med-Life continued to issue diplomas and transcripts after its dissolution. Med-Life was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer a Nursing-Associate in Science Degree. The objective of the program was to “prepare the student to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Board of Nursing for Registered Nurse Education and meet eligibility for licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) in order to work as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings in a safe and effective manner.” Med-Life was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a [sic] Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1,665 hours of instruction, which included 720 hours of clinical experience in a health care setting.

Palm Beach School of Nursing LLC (“Palm Beach School of Nursing”) from its incorporation on or about April 11, 2016 to present. Palm Beach School of Nursing was initially located at... West Palm Beach, FL...and then moved to...Lake Worth, FL...Palm Beach School of Nursing was licensed by Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer a Nursing-Associate in Science Degree. The objective of the program was to “prepare the student to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Board of Nursing for Registered Nurse Education and meet eligibility for licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) in order to work as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings in a safe and effective manner.” Palm Beach School of Nursing was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a [sic] Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1,665 hours of instruction, which included 720 hours of clinical experience in a

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health care setting.

....

From in or around October 2016 to present,...Med-Life [and] Palm Beach School of Nursing...issued transcripts and diplomas to 62 individuals listed in Attachment A, who completed the required program hours and clinical training necessary to receive either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

From in or around October 2016 to present,...Med-Life [and] Palm Beach School of Nursing...issued transcripts and diplomas to 4989 individuals listed in Attachment B, who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

....

I am also aware there may be other individuals claiming to have completed the registered nursing program at Med-Life or Palm Beach School of Nursing who may possess illegitimate degrees and transcripts. However, those individuals named in Attachment A are not known to me to have completed the required program hours and clinical training necessary to earn a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

9. The Respondent's name, date of birth, and social security number are listed in Attachment B indicating the Respondent is one of the individuals who was issued a transcript and diploma and who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

Board Investigation

10. The Board received a copy of the Respondent's transcript ("Transcript") from Palm Beach School of Nursing which indicates that she attended Palm Beach School of Nursing in Lake Worth, Florida from October 2, 2015 until December 1, 2017. The Transcript includes the following information:

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Course Number	General Education Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
HSC 101	Introduction to Health Care	3.0	
HSC 102	Human Anatomy & Physiology (Lab: 2 hours)	3.0	
HSC 103	Human Development	3.0	
HSC 104	Microbiology	3.0	
GEC 101	College Writing	3.0	
GEC 102	College Algebra	3.0	
GEC 103	Psychology	3.0	
GEC 104	Sociology	3.0	
GEC 105	Pathophysiology	3.0	
Total Credit Hours:		27.0	

Course Number	Nursing Course Title	Credit Hours	Grade
NUR 100	LPN to RN Transition	3.0	
NUR 104	Critical Thinking & the Nursing Process	3.0	
NUR 103	Pharmacology	3.0	
NUR 201	Adult Nursing I	3.0	
NUR 202	Adult Nursing I Practicum (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 203	Psychiatric Nursing	3.0	
NUR 204	Psychiatric Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 205	Maternal and Newborn Nursing	3.0	
NUR 206	Maternal and Newborn Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 207	Pediatric Nursing	3.0	
NUR 208	Pediatric Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 301	Adult Nursing II	3.0	
NUR 302	Adult Nursing Practicum II (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 401	Advanced Nursing Skills (lab: 1 hour; clinical 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 402	Professional Nursing Leadership	3.0	
Total Credit Hours:		45.0	

11. The Transcript does not indicate the specific dates or time periods that the Respondent completed each individual didactic class, nor does it indicate the specific dates and/or locations where the clinical courses were completed.

Respondent's Response to Board Request for Information

12. The Respondent completed and submitted to the Board an Investigative Questionnaire which she signed on February 20, 2023, which states:

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By my signature below, I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the information I provided in or attached to this Questionnaire is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

13. On the Investigative Questionnaire, the Respondent indicated that she enrolled at Palm Beach School of Nursing on October 2, 2015 and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Palm Beach School of Nursing on December 1, 2017.

14. The Respondent stated on the Questionnaire that she resided in Maryland when she attended Palm Beach School of Nursing located in West Palm Beach, Florida. When asked to provide the names of the courses she took online for each nursing program, the Respondent indicated that she only took two courses online for Palm Beach School of Nursing: Pediatric Nursing and Medical Surgical II.

15. In response to the question asking the Respondent to provide a list of all the courses for which she received clinical experience, the Respondent did not list any clinical courses, dates, or locations for clinical experiences for Palm Beach School of Nursing.

16. In a letter dated February 20, 2023 addressed to the Board's President, the Respondent wrote the following:

....

I respectfully appeal to you and the Maryland Board of Nursing to allow me to retain my nursing license.

....

Beginning in 2011, I...enroll[ed] in a pre-nursing program at [School A] in Rockville, MD....I completed all my pre-requisite classes for nursing school.

....on January 4, 2016, I enrolled in a for-profit school [School B] in Alexandria, VA, in their Registered Nursing Program...I completed all my clinicals⁴ in Virginia through [School B]. Unfortunately, in the Summer of 2017, the school owner told

⁴ On the Investigative Questionnaire, the Respondent indicated that she only attended two clinical courses while attending School B: Medical Surgical I for 15 days (50+ hours) and Psychiatric Nursing Clinical for 15 days (50+hours). The Respondent's transcript from School B also indicates that the only two clinical courses that Respondent took at School B were during Spring 2016 Semester: Medical Surgical Clinical I (3.0 credit hours) and Psychiatric Clinical (1.0 credit hour).

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us that the school would be closing due to low NCLEX passing rates. I was two classes away from completing my degree and graduating.

....

Some of my classmates from [School B] had told me about Palm Beach. I reached out to Palm Beach, and they assured me that my credits from [School A] and [School B] would be credited and that they would provide the remaining two classes I needed. However, I was unaware of Palm Beach's wrongdoings.

With my degree from Palm Beach, I studied and passed the NCLEX⁵ and received my license.

DISCUSSION

17. The Respondent submitted registration information to NCLEX when applying for examination for licensure through the New York Education Department indicating that she had graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing in December 2017.
18. The Respondent submitted an RN Endorsement Application to the Maryland Board in which she indicated that he graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing on December 1, 2017.
19. The Respondent provided false and/or contradictory information about her RN education.
20. In a signed affidavit, Johanah Napoleon, owner and operator of Palm Beach School of Nursing and Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach, provided a list of individuals who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training at Palm Beach School of Nursing and Med-Life Institute, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, date of birth and social security number.
21. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
22. The Respondent holds an active, Multistate RN license and the Respondent's ability and

⁵ According to the Respondent, she graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing in December 2017. The Respondent passed the NCLEX-RN on February 16, 2019.

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opportunity to continue to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained RN license poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings and reasons, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

It is hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Nursing by Maryland Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226(c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) the license of **CARIDDAD GIRLIE CERIN BAUTISTA** to practice as a **REGISTERED NURSE** in the State of Maryland, license number **R246906**, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **March 22, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.** before the Board at the Maryland Board of Nursing offices, 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215; and be it further

ORDERED that if, the suspension of the Respondent's license is continued following a Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent has the right to a full evidentiary hearing before the Board and a hearing will be scheduled before the Board if the Respondent submits a written request for an evidentiary hearing to the Board **no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing**; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the future to any

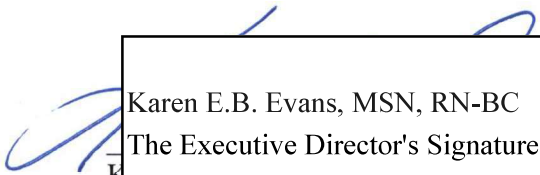
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hearing on the merits of the summary suspension and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary Suspension; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the summary suspension of the Respondent's license shall continue until further Order of the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this, "Order for Summary Suspension of Registered Nurse License" is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.* & § 4-333 (2019).

March 9, 2023
Date


Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC
The Executive Director's Signature
Appears on the Original Document
Maryland Board of Nursing