

IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND
*
KINGSLEY ARINZECHUKWU NWOKOLO* BOARD OF NURSING

License Number: LP53772 *
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**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL 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 Licensed Practical Nurse license, license number **LP53772**, of **KINGSLEY ARINZECHUKWU NWOKOLO** (the “Respondent”), 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 gives 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 under SG § 10-226 (c) (2).

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

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

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct identified herein are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the asserted facts. 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.

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1. On January 4, 2018, the Respondent was issued a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse (“LPN”) in the State of Maryland, license number LP53772. The Respondent's license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on July 28, 2023. The Compact² status of the Respondent’s Maryland RN license is “Multistate.”

**MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR LPN LICENSE BY EXAM
 (“LPN APPLICATION”)**

2. On or about July 10, 2017, the Respondent submitted an online Application for LPN License By Exam (“LPN Application”). On the LPN Application, the Respondent indicated that he graduated from a basic nursing education program with an associate degree from Sunshine Academy located in Boynton Beach, Florida on June 28, 2017.
3. On the LPN Application, the Respondent affirmed and agreed with the following statement: “I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge” and was advised that “providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board and may result in denial of licensure.”

NCLEX-PN EXAM

4. According to the NCSBN NCLEX³ Registration Data, the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-PN examination on November 30, 2017

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 is an acronym for the National Council Licensure Examination.

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5. As part of registering for the NCLEX-PN examination, the Respondent provided the following information:
- a. Name: Nwokolo, Kingsley Arinzechukwu
 - b. Address: [redacted], Baltimore, MD
 - c. Date of Birth: [redacted]
 - d. SSN: [redacted]
 - e. Education program: Quisqueya School of Nursing
 - f. Graduation Date: 06/2017
 - g. Applicant made eligible by: Maryland

SUNSHINE ACADEMY

6. On July 8, 2021, a Criminal Complaint and Affidavit of Criminal Complaints were filed alleging that Johanah Napoleon and other individuals committed (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.
7. The Affidavit of Criminal Complaints alleged that Johanah Napoleon and other individuals worked together to sell fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and a number of these unqualified individuals subsequently obtained employment at various healthcare providers in the District of Maryland.
8. On June 2, 2022, an Information was filed alleging that Johanah Napoleon committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud. Johanah Napoleon was identified as the President of Palm Beach School of Nursing, and the sole manager and authorized representative of Quisqueya.

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9. According to the Information, the Purpose of the Conspiracy was “for the defendant [Johanah Napoleon] and her co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other things, selling fraudulent nursing diplomas, educational transcripts and other credentials, assisting the purchasers in fraudulently obtaining licensure and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.”
10. In a notarized affidavit, signed on June 7, 2022, Johanah Napoleon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated the following schools:

Quisqueya School of Nursing LLC *doing business as* Sunshine Academy (“Sunshine Academy[”]) from February 26, 2014 to present. Sunshine Academy was located at 2755 South Federal Highway, Suite 9 & 10, Boynton Beach, FL 33435. Sunshine Academy was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer a practical nursing program. The objective of the program was to “prepare student[s] to provide nursing care to clients in hospitals, nursing homes, home healthcare agencies, and other areas in healthcare. Upon satisfactory completion of the program the graduate is eligible to apply to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing.” Sunshine Academy was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a diploma in practical nursing. This program required students to complete 1,350 hours of instruction, which included 675 hours of clinical experience in a health care setting.

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From in or around October 2016 to in or around December 2020, Sunshine Academy. . . and Quisqueya 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, Sunshine Academy. . . and Quisqueya 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 of a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.
[Emphasis added]

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....

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 not 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.

11. The Respondent's name, date of birth, and social security number, matching what he provided to register for the NCLEX and obtain licensure in Maryland, appear on **Attachment B** of Johanah Napoleon's Affidavit indicating that the Respondent was issued a transcript and diploma without completing the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

BOARD'S INVESTIGATION

12. On or about February 27, 2023, the Respondent, submitted to the Board an Investigative Questionnaire which he signed on or about February 16, 2023, which states:

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. As part of the Questionnaire, the Respondent reported that he attended "Sunshine Academy (Quisqueya) School of Nursing Boynton Beach, Florida" from "04/25/2016" until "06/28/2017."
14. The Respondent explained that while attending Sunshine Academy he "resided in Maryland but was going to Florida every month for 14 months for classes."⁴
15. The Respondent explained that "payments were made at the school using bank cards."

⁴ The Respondent provided some financial information that supported the Respondent's assertion that he flew to Florida for approximately 48 hours each month. However, according to the Affidavit signed by Johanah Napoleon, the program required students to complete 1,350 hours of instruction, which included 675 hours of clinical experience. There is no way the Respondent was able to attain the required program instructional and clinical hours by going to Florida one time each month.

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16. The Respondent submitted an Official Transcript from Sunshine Academy which includes the following information:

Course Number	Nursing Course	Clock Hours	Grade	
TERM 1				
PN 101	Vocational Adjustment/Law & Ethics	24		
PN 102	Human Growth & Development	24		
PN 103	Body Structure & Functions	96		
PN 104	Principles of Nutrition	24		
TERM 2				
PN 105	Fundamentals of Practical Nursing	76		
PN 105	Fundamentals of Practical Nursing Clinicals	180		
PN 300	Pharmacology	72		
TERM 3				
PN 200	Medical Surgical Nursing	96		
PN 200	Medical Surgical Nursing Clinicals	250		
PN 400	Geriatric Nursing	40		
PN 400	Geriatric Nursing Clinicals	134		
TERM 4				
PN 500	Maternal/Newborn Nursing	40		
PN 500	Maternal/Newborn Nursing Clinicals	88		
PN 501	Pediatric Nursing	40		
PN 501	Pediatric Nursing clinicals	88		
PN 600	Mental Health	30		
PN 600	Mental Health Clinicals	48		
Total clock hours and grade point average		1350		

DISCUSSION

17. The Respondent submitted registration information to NCLEX (Quisqueya School of Nursing) and information on his LPN Application to the Board (Sunshine Academy), indicating that he received his basic nursing education on or about June 28, 2017.
18. In his written response to the Board, the Respondent stated that he “resided in Maryland but traveled to Florida every month for classes.” He indicated that he occasionally had Zoom classes after he returned from Florida.

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19. The Respondent explained he decided to “go to this school because it suited my work schedule. My schedule then was 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Nursing schools in Maryland operated morning and evening classes and this could not serve my interest.”
20. The Respondent provided false/contradictory information about his LPN education.
21. In a signed affidavit, Johanah Napoleon, owner and operator of Quisequeya School of Nursing LLC which did business as Sunshine Academy, provided a list of individuals who **did not** complete the required program hours and clinical training at Quisequeya School of Nursing LLC which did business as Sunshine Academy, necessary to receive a transcript. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, date of birth, and social security number.
22. The Respondent does not meet the Board’s statutory and regulatory requirements for LPN licensure in Maryland.
23. The Respondent holds an active, compact LPN license and the Respondent’s ability and opportunity to practice as an LPN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained LPN 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.).

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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 Licensed Practical Nursing license, license number **LP53772**, of **KINGSLEY ARINZECHUKWU NWOKOLO**, in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **March 22, 2023, at 2:45 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 hearing on the merits of the summary suspension of the Respondent's license 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

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

March 8, 2023
Date

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