

**IN THE MATTER OF**

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**BEFORE THE MARYLAND**

**DESIREE DEUTCHOUA**

**BOARD OF NURSING**

**License Number: R242756**

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**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 Registered Nurse license, license number **R242756**, of **DESIREE DEUTCHOUA** (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:

- 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).

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO § 10-226(c)(2) OF THE  
STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE  
DEUTCHOVA, DESIREE: R242756**

**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:<sup>1</sup>

1. On February 25, 2020, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse (“RN”) license in the State of Maryland. The Respondent’s RN license has a status of “Active-Compact” and is due to expire on January 28, 2024.

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

2. On or about December 21, 2017, the Respondent submitted an on-line Application for RN License by Exam. The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that she graduated from Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach with an Associate Degree in Nursing on November 10, 2017.
3. The Respondent 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.”

**NURSYS**<sup>2</sup>

4. NCLEX<sup>3</sup> registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on February 22, 2020; education program: Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC; Applicant made eligible by: Maryland.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup> A national database provided through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), for verification of LPN/RN licensure, disciplinary action, and practice privilege.

<sup>3</sup> Licensure examination.

<sup>4</sup> The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 2-22-2020 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO § 10-226(c)(2) OF THE  
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DEUTCHOVA, DESIREE: R242756**

**BACKGROUND:**

**U.S District Court for the District of Maryland**

5. 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.
6. The Affidavit alleged that 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.

**U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida**

**Information:**

7. 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.
8. 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.”

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**Affidavit of Johanah Napoleon**

9. 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:

....

Med-Life Institute WPB LLC (“Med-Life”) from September 28, 2015 until it was dissolved on September 23, 2016. Med-Life was located at 2695 N. Military Trail, Suite #17, West Palm Beach, FL 33409. Med-Life continued to issue diplomas and transcripts after its dissolution. Med-Life Institute was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer 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[n] Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1665 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 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.” Palm Beach School of Nursing was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a[n] Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1665 hours of instruction, which included 720 hours of clinical experience in a health care setting.

....

From in or around October 2016 to present, ...Med-Life, Palm Beach School of Nursing, and ... 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.

10. The Respondent’s name is listed in Attachment B of the Affidavit, along with the Respondent’s DOB and SSN.

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO § 10-226(c)(2) OF THE  
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**DISCUSSION**

11. The Respondent submitted registration information to NCLEX that she graduated from Palm Beach School of Nursing in November 2017. The Respondent provided information on her RN Application to the Board, indicating that she received her basic nursing education from Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach and graduated on November 10, 2017.
12. The Respondent provided false/contradictory information about her RN education.
13. 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, DOB and SSN.
14. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
15. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and opportunity 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 FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO § 10-226(c)(2) OF THE  
STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE  
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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 Registered Nurse license, license number **R242756**, of **DESIREE DEUTCHOVA**, 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 12: 00 PM** 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

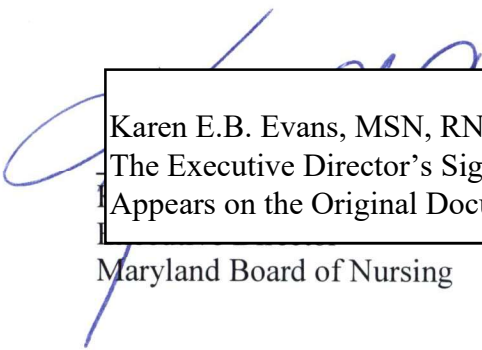
**ORDERED** that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the future to any hearing on the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

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION PURSUANT TO § 10-226(c)(2) OF THE  
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**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 Repl. Vol.).

March 6, 2023  
Date



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

Maryland Board of Nursing