

IN THE MATTER OF

* BEFORE THE MARYLAND

HABIBAT SULAIMON

* BOARD OF NURSING

License Number: R235430

* Case No.: 23-BP-009

* * * * *

**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 **R235430** of **HABIBAT SULAIMON**, (the "Respondent"), 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 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 ("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 October 9, 2018, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse ("RN") license,

¹The allegations set forth in this document are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable 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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R235430, to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on May 28, 2024. The Compact² status of the Respondent's Maryland RN license is "Multi-State."³ According to the Maryland Board's MyLicense Office ("MYLO") database, the Respondent's current address is in the State of Maryland.

2. On August 4, 2011, the Respondent was issued a licensed practical nurse ("LPN") license, LP49158, to practice as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's license is inactive and expired on May 28, 2014.

**MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR RN LICENSE BY EXAM
("RN APPLICATION")**

3. On or about March 28, 2018, the Respondent submitted an online Maryland Initial Application for licensure of RN by Exam ("RN Application"). On the RN Endorsement Application, the Respondent indicated that she graduated from Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach on February 27, 2018.

4. 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."

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 On October 11, 2022, the Respondent's Maryland RN Privilege was disciplined in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Case Number 213171 Before the Virginia Board of Nursing.

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NURSYS⁴

NCLEX-RN EXAM

5. NCLEX⁵ registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on October 5, 2018.

6. As part of registering for the NCLEX-RN examination, the Respondent provided the following information:

- a. Name: Sulaimon, Habibat Abimbola
- b. Address: [Redacted] Hyattsville, MD
- c. Date of Birth: [Redacted]
- d. SSN: [Redacted]
- e. Education program: Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC
- f. Graduation date: [nothing entered]
- g. Applicant made eligible by: Maryland⁶

7. On August 21, 2018, the Respondent was issued an RN license by exam in the State of Maryland, license number R235430. NURSYS indicates Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC, as the RN School connected to the Respondent's Maryland RN license.

PALM BEACH SCHOOL OF NURSING

8. On July 8, 2021, a Criminal Complaint and Affidavit of Criminal Complaints were filed alleging that Johanañ Napoleon and other individuals committed (1) Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; (2) Conspiracy to Commit False Statement Relating to Health Care Matters; and (3)

⁴ 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.

⁵ Licensure examination.

⁶ The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 10-5-2018 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

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False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters.

9. 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.

10. On June 2, 2022, an Information was filed alleging that Johanah Napoleon had committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud. Johanah Napoleon was identified as the President of Palm Beach School of Nursing.

11. 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 obtaining employment in the healthcare field.”

12. In a notarized affidavit, signed on June 7, 2022, Johanah Napoleon declared under penalty 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

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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.

13. The Respondent’s name, date of birth, and social security number, matching what she provided to register for 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

14. On or about February 8, 2023, the Board notified the Respondent of the FBI’s criminal charges and issues surrounding the Respondent’s educational background. The correspondence included an attached Investigative Questionnaire.

15. By email dated February 28, 2023, the Respondent provided a written response and attachments to further the Board’s investigation.

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16. The Respondent did not return a completed questionnaire as requested by the Board.
17. The Respondent responded to the Board's request for information by emailing correspondence to the Board on or about February 28, 2023.
18. The Respondent reported that she attended the following schools:
 - a. University of District of Columbia – to attain Home Health Aide Certification
 - b. Prince George's County Community College – had to drop out due to financial reasons
 - c. Capital Health Institute – LPN Program
 - d. Unknown school – Respondent stated "I found out later that the school was a scam ..."
 - e. Straighterline – for pre-requisite courses
 - f. CapsCare Academy – began the LPN to RN bridge program but left due to issues with at the school
 - g. Palm Beach School of Nursing
19. The Respondent indicated that "CAPSCARE requirement for LPN to RN HYBRID disregard[ed] many clinicals due to [the Respondent being] an LPN.
20. The Respondent provided a copy of an associate of science degree in nursing diploma from Palm Beach School of Nursing.
21. The Respondent provided a copy of correspondence from Palm Beach School of Nursing dated January 30, 2018, and signed by Johanah Napoleon, President, which states "Habibat Sulaimon is currently enrolled in our Associate of Science in Nursing here at **Palm Beach School of Nursing** formerly **Med-Life Institute School of Nursing**. The tuition paid for the 2017 school year is **\$17,000.00** Our Employer Identification number is **47-2647277**."

DISCUSSION

22. The Respondent submitted registration information to NCLEX and information on her RN

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Application to the Board indicating that she received an associate of science degree from Palm Beach School of Nursing and that she graduated on February 27, 2018.

23. The Respondent provided false/contradictory information about her RN education.

24. 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 nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, date of birth and social security number.

25. The Respondent does not meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in the State of Maryland.

26. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and opportunity to practice in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained RN license poses a serious risk 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 Registered Nurse license, license number **R235430**, of **Habibat Sulaimon** in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

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ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **March 22, 2023 at 2:30p.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 certificate 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 certificate 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 Repl. Vol.).

March 8, 2023
Date

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

Maryland Board of Nursing