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**BEFORE THE MARYLAND**

**BLANDINE WUPYONG**

**BOARD OF NURSING**

**Multi-State Licensing Privilege to  
Practice Registered Nursing  
(Florida-License No. RN9615765)**

**OAG Case No.: 23-BP-072**

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**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF MULTI-STATE LICENSING PRIVILEGE  
TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING 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 multi-state licensure privilege of **BLANDINE WUPYONG**, (the “Respondent”), Multi-State Licensing Privilege to Practice Registered Nursing, Florida license number **RN9615765**. The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article (“SG”) § 10-226 (c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2022 Supp.), 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).

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**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:<sup>1</sup>

1. On November 23, 2022, the Florida Board of Nursing (“Florida Board”) issued the Respondent a license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Florida, license number RN9615765. The Respondent’s Florida RN license is active and scheduled to expire on July 31, 2024. The Compact status of the Respondent’s Florida RN license is “Multistate.”<sup>2</sup>

**RN EDUCATION**

2. According to the National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX<sup>3</sup> Registration Data, the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN examination on or about November 16, 2021 (Failed) and November 22, 2022 (Passed).
3. As part of registering for the NCLEX-RN examination, the Respondent provided the following information:<sup>4</sup>

- a. Name: Wupyong, Blandine
- b. Address: [redacted], MD
- c. Date of Birth: [redacted]
- d. SSN: [redacted]

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<sup>1</sup> The 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.

<sup>2</sup> Under the Multi-state Licensure Compact (“Compact”), Maryland Nurse Practice Act § 8-7A-01, Florida is a compact state and the Respondent is allowed to practice under the multi-state licensing privilege in any State that is a party to the Compact. The State of Maryland is a party to the Compact.

<sup>3</sup> NCLEX is an acronym for the National Council Licensure Examination.

<sup>4</sup> The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 11/22/2022 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

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- e. Education program Code: US70900000<sup>5</sup>
  - f. Graduation Date: 06/2020
  - g. Exam Date: 11/22/2022
  - h. Applicant made eligible by: Florida.
4. According to NURSYS, the Respondent only holds an RN license in Florida.

**SIENA EDUCATION CENTER**

5. By letter dated January 25, 2023, and directed to Members of the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), of which the Maryland Board is a member, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Miami Field Office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office of the Inspector General (HHS-OIG) explained that Siena Education Center LLC, doing business as Siena College of Health “sold illegitimate nursing diplomas and transcripts.”
6. Supporting documentation from the U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida revealed that on January 23, 2023, an **Information** was filed alleging that Eunide Sanon, the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College, committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
7. On March 14, 2023, Eunide Sanon entered a plea of Guilty and the Court accepted the plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
8. The Court found there was a factual basis for the plea as provided in the **Factual Basis in Support of Plea** excerpted below:

Defendant Eunide Sanon, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College (collectively Siena).

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<sup>5</sup> The Respondent confirmed that she attended Siena Education Center, LLC.

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From on or about November 17, 2018, through in or around October 2021, in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others sold false and fraudulent diplomas and educational transcripts to co-conspirators which falsely represented that the co-conspirators had completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training to obtain nursing degrees from Siena when in fact the co-conspirators had never completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training.

....

Eunide Sanon ..., and others mailed and caused others to mail, by United States Postal Service, fake diplomas, transcripts, and other false and fraudulent documents to co-conspirators and to state licensing agencies, including NYSED,<sup>[6]</sup> on behalf of the co-conspirators.

....

Using the false and fraudulent continuing education certifications, diplomas, transcripts, and other fraudulent documents, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others assisted co-conspirators to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by Eunide Sanon and others, to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

9. In a notarized *Affidavit of Eunide Sanon* (the “Affidavit”), signed on December 15, 2022, Eunide Sanon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated Siena Education Center, LLC, doing business as Siena College of Health (“Siena”) from its incorporation on or about October 20, 2003 to its dissolution on or about September 23, 2022. Siena was located at 7491 Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 100, Lauderhill, Florida 33319.

Siena was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer medical programs to include a practical nursing program and an Associate in Science degree. The objective of the programs was “to provide quality education to students seeking careers in medically related fields.”

....

Siena was authorized to offer an Associate in Science nursing program. This was a 90-week program consisting of 74 semester hours including at

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<sup>6</sup> New York State Education Department

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least 50% clinical training. The objective of this program was “to prepare students for employment as Registered Nurses.”

....

From in or around November 2017 to in or around October 2021, **Siena College of Health may have issued transcripts and diplomas to 2,016 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.** [Emphasis added]

10. The Respondent’s name, date of birth, and social security number, matching what she provided to register for the NCLEX, appear on Attachment B of Eunide Sanon’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 INVESTIGATION**

11. On or about May 5, 2023, the Respondent, submitted to the Board an Investigative Questionnaire which she signed on or about May 2, 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.

12. As part of the Questionnaire, the Respondent reported that she attended the following school: “Siena College of Education Fort Lauderdale Florida 33318”
13. The Respondent noted that she started the program on “May 30<sup>th</sup> 2020” and finished on “5/14/2021 – This is the date she sent me an unofficial transcript, then later mailed it to me.”
14. On the Questionnaire, the Respondent added that her program “was all online” and she did **not** attend any in-person clinicals.

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15. Lastly, the Respondent explained that she paid via “money order directed to Ms. Sanon Eunide.” The Respondent provided copies of the money orders she sent directly to Eunide Sanon in the amount of \$14,500. In addition, the Respondent provided copies of receipts - \$160.00 paid on May 30, 2020, for the “registration fee”, and \$2,000.00 paid on May 30, 2020, for the “school fee down payment.” The total “school fee” listed on the receipt was “16.500.00.”

**BOARD INVESTIGATOR’S INTERVIEW**

16. During an in-person interview conducted on June 14, 2023, the Respondent provided the following information:

- a. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Cameroon.
- b. She found Siena through a Google search.
- c. She did not investigate any other schools, including those in Maryland.
- d. She never traveled to Florida, has never seen the campus, or met the owner, instructor, or support staff.
- e. She paid a total of \$16,500 in money orders for the program. She was instructed to send them through the mail. A support staff member at Siena instructed her to whom to address the money orders and where to send the mail.
- f. Upon registration, the support person texted her review videos to watch.
- g. All classes were taught online by a single instructor. Classes were held on Tuesdays and Fridays.<sup>7</sup> The Respondent provided copies of emails from the instructor which indicated that the classes were held at night (approximately 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm). From the emails and documents, the following information was gathered:
  - i. Fundamentals of Nursing – classes started June 5, 2020, with the final exam open until July 4, 2020.
  - ii. Medical/Surgical Nursing 1 – Classes started July 7, 2020, with the final exam open until August 8, 2020.
  - iii. Medical/Surgical Nursing 2 – Classes started August 11, 2020, with the final exam open until September 12, 2020.

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<sup>7</sup> During her interview the Respondent indicated that her classes were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays but the email and course information list Tuesdays and Fridays.

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- iv. Maternity – Classes started in October 2020, with the final exam closing on October 24, 2020
- v. Pediatrics – Classes began in November 2020, with the final exam closing on December 5, 2020.
- vi. Mental Health & Review<sup>8</sup> – Classes were held January 5<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- h. Class consisted of taking “roll call” and then “online quizzes” and “assignments to complete like 50 questions . . . 100 questions on this part . . . 25 questions on this part. You had to get a 70% to pass.”
- i. She was scheduled to fly to Florida for three (3) days in order to “complete clinicals” but she was unable to go due to the quarantine.
- j. She did **NOT** complete in-person labs or clinicals at Siena.
- k. She attended classes for a total of **six (6) months**.
- l. She finished classes in January 2021.
- m. After she graduated, she took NCLEX “review courses”.
- n. She took the NCLEX in November 2021 and failed. She waited a year before taking the exam in November 2022 and passing.
- o. She sent the only copy of her transcript to University in order to enroll in a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program. That program is currently on hold until “this is all cleared up.”
- p. She applied for RN licensure by going to the Florida Board of Nursing website. She was going to move to Florida but when she realized that she could work in Maryland on her multi-state privilege to practice, she postponed her move.

**DISCUSSION**

- 17. The Respondent, while living in Maryland, attended online classes from a single instructor at Siena Education Center located in Lauderhill, Florida. She attended classes twice a week for approximately 3 hours each night from approximately June 5, 2020, until January 15, 2021.
- 18. The Respondent was provided with an Associates of Science in Nursing transcript even though her classes were each less than a month in duration, her entire program was only

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<sup>8</sup> The Respondent did not list this class on her questionnaire or during her interview.

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six to eight months in duration, and she had no in-person, hands-on clinical, or lab experience.

19. The Respondent sat for and passed the NCLEX-RN in November 2022 and identified her education program as Siena Education Center, LLC.
20. The Respondent received an RN license by exam in the State of Florida based on, among other things, the information she provided to the Florida Board of Nursing regarding her education program.
21. In a signed affidavit, Eunide Sanon, owner, and operator of Siena Education Center, LLC, provided a list of individuals who did **not** complete the required program hours and clinical training at Siena Education Center, LLC, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, DOB, and SSN.
22. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
23. 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. and 2022 Supp.).



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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. & 2022 Supp.) the Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Florida RN RN9615765) of **BLANDINE WUPYONG** to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

**ORDERED** that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **JULY 25, 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 Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Florida RN RN9615765) 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 Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Florida RN RN9615765) 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 Multi-State Licensing Privilege (Florida RN RN9615765) shall continue until further Order of the Board; and it is further

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**ORDERED** that this, “Order for Summary Suspension of Multi-State Licensing Privilege to Practice Registered Nurse License Pursuant to Section 10-226(c)(2) of the Administrative Procedure Act” is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.* & § 4-333 (2019).

July 7, 2023  
Date

Rhonda Scott, JD, BSN, CRNI, SD-CLTC  
The Interim Executive Director’s Signature  
Appears on the Original Document

Maryland Board of Nursing