

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE MARYLAND

SHEILA ANGEH

*

BOARD OF NURSING

*

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
EXAM APPLICANT**

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**CONSENT ORDER
DENYING APPLICATION FOR EXAM OF LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
LICENSE**

During an investigation of individuals who submitted fraudulent applications and transcripts to the Maryland Board of Nursing (the “Board”) for licensure, **SHEILA ANGEH** (the “Applicant”), was identified as one of the individuals. Based on the Board’s investigative findings, on January 31, 2022, the Board issued a “Notice of Agency Action: Charges under the Maryland Nurse Practice Act: Initial Denial of Application of Licensed Practical Nurse License” (the “Charges”), denying the Applicant’s Application for Exam of Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) License, in the State of Maryland. The Charges alleged that the Applicant violated the Maryland Nurse Practice Act (“the Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations Article (“Health Occ.”) § 8-316 (a) (1) and (30).

On April 12, 2022, the Applicant participated in a case resolution conference (“CRC”), with her attorney, in an effort to resolve the Board’s charges in lieu of an evidentiary hearing before the Board. The Assistant Attorney General - Administrative Prosecutor was also in attendance at the CRC, on behalf of the State. At the CRC, the Applicant and the State agreed to, and the Board hereby accepts, the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.

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Consent Order Denying Application for Exam of Licensed Practical Nurse License

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR EXAM OF LPN LICENSE (“LPN APPLICATION”)

1. On or about October 24, 2016, the Applicant submitted an on-line LPN Application.
The Applicant indicated on the LPN Application that she graduated on June 28, 2013 from LPN School.
2. The Applicant affirmed and agreed to the following statement: “I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge.” The Applicant was advised that “providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board, and may result in denial of licensure.”

LPN SCHOOL

3. On July 21, 2010, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a Consent Order, ordering that [LPN School] be placed on Conditional Provisional Approval for not less than one (1) year, subject to terms and conditions. The Consent Order was signed by LPN School’s Program Director (“Director”).
4. On May 15, 2012, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a Consent Order, signed by Director. The May 15, 2012 - Consent Order orders that:
 - i. [LPN School’s] approval to operate a practical nursing education program in Virginia is WITHDRAWN. [LPN School] shall cease operations no later than June 30, 2013, when all students shall either have graduated or transferred to an approved program.
 - ii. [LPN School] shall not admit any new or transfer students.

THE APPLICANT’S LPN SCHOOL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

5. The Official Transcript, signed by the Director and dated June 28, 2013, provides the following information:

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<p>FIRST QUARTER From: 01/23/2012 To: 03/23/2012</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Course Description</u></th> <th><u>Contact Hours</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basic Computer</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medical Terminology</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anatomy and Physiology</td> <td>180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Contact Hours Required</td> <td>270</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>	Basic Computer	30	Medical Terminology	60	Anatomy and Physiology	180	Total Contact Hours Required	270	<p>THIRD QUARTER From: 07/23/2012 To 11/09/2012</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Course Description</u></th> <th><u>Contact Hours</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Med/Surg I</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Med/Surg II</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Med/Surg Clinical</td> <td>200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Med/Surg Lab</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geriatrics Theory</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geriatrics Clinical</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Contact Hours Required</td> <td>550</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>	Med/Surg I	120	Med/Surg II	120	Med/Surg Clinical	200	Med/Surg Lab	40	Geriatrics Theory	30	Geriatrics Clinical	40	Total Contact Hours Required	550						
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<p>SECOND QUARTER From: 03/26/2012 To: 07/20/2012</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Course Description</u></th> <th><u>Contact Hours</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Diet and Nutrition</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pharmacology</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing Fundamentals</td> <td>210</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing Fundamentals Lab</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursing Fundamentals Clinical</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Contact Hours</td> <td>490</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>	Diet and Nutrition	60	Pharmacology	120	Nursing Fundamentals	210	Nursing Fundamentals Lab	60	Nursing Fundamentals Clinical	40	Total Contact Hours	490	<p>FOURTH QUARTER From: 11/12/2012 To: 06/28/2013</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Course Description</u></th> <th><u>Contact Hours</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pediatric Nursing</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pediatric Nursing Clinical</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maternity Nursing</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maternity Clinical</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental Health Nursing</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental Health Clinical</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professional Development & NCLEX Review</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Contact Hours Required</td> <td>390</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Course Description</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>	Pediatric Nursing	90	Pediatric Nursing Clinical	40	Maternity Nursing	90	Maternity Clinical	40	Mental Health Nursing	30	Mental Health Clinical	40	Professional Development & NCLEX Review	60	Total Contact Hours Required	390
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Summary of Clinical Agencies/Facilities and dates for each experience

Clinical Courses	Clinical Agency	Clinical Date	Start	Clinical End Date	Total Hours
Nsg. Fundamentals	[Site A]	03/19/12		03/23/12	40
Medical-Surgical Nsg.	[Sites A, B, C]	09/10/12		10/12/12	200
Geriatrics Nsg.	[Site D]	10/22/12		10/26/12	40
Maternity Nsg.	[Site E]	02/04/13		02/08/13	40
Pediatrics Nsg.	[Site E]	02/25/13		03/01/13	40
Mental Health Nsg.	[Site F]	03/18/13		03/22/13	40

THE BOARD’S INVESTIGATION:

6. On August 5, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted the General Counsel for Clinical Sites B, C and D, requesting information on any agreements with LPN School. On August 5, 2021, the General Counsel responded by email, stating “I searched our contracts database and do not find any contracts with [LPN School]. Additionally, as a skilled nursing facility, I do not believe we would have hosted clinicals for surgical nursing.”
7. On August 6, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted Clinical Site E’s Executive Director by phone. Executive Director stated that Clinical Site E does not offer OB/GYN or pediatric

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care and that the program offers services to troubled teens, there are no nurses on staff and the program does not offer any medical services.

8. On August 25, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by email that Clinical Site F "does not have any affiliation or contracts with any nursing institute for any clinical hours."
9. In a letter dated September 8, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by Clinical Site A, "we regret to inform you that after searching our records, we were unable to locate any school agreement for clinical rotations with [LPN School]."
10. On September 9, 2021, the Applicant was interviewed under oath and provided the following information:
 - i. She was enrolled in another school in DC which was closing, was told about another school by other students that offered "review and crash programs" and was introduced to Individual.
 - ii. She met with Individual, who informed her he was worked in collaboration with LPN School. She met with him at a house in Bowie, Maryland. The basement of the house was set up as a classroom.
 - iii. Individual requested a cash payment of \$5500 and she paid on a payment plan.
 - iv. She started classes in July 2016. There was a mixture of subjects and no particular sequence to what was taught. Classes were three to four days a week and classes had LPN and RN students. Classes lasted about four months and were conducted by Individual and another instructor.
 - v. She took a comprehensive exam and was told she passed the exam and was told to register with the Board for the exam.
 - vi. She received a diploma from LPN School, signed by Director.¹
 - vii. She was given LPN School transcript to submit to the Board. Her husband questioned why she was given the transcript because most schools will submit the transcript directly.
 - viii. The transcript listed dates and clinical sites that she did not attend and she asked about the information and was told to take the exam and come back later to do the clinicals. She was asked to pay an additional \$4000 to complete the clinicals.
 - ix. Individual did not respond to follow up requests to complete clinicals before taking the exam. She never took the NCLEX because the information was incorrect.

¹ On or about July 8, 2021, in the U.S. District Court of Maryland, Director was indicted on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters and False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters. According to the Criminal Complaint, Director 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.

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- x. [Transcript on file with the Board reviewed] She indicated the dates were wrong and she never attended any of the clinicals listed. She took it back to Individual for corrections but he never changed it. She never saw or had contact with Director. All her interactions were with Individual.
- xi. [LPN Application reviewed] She completed the application on line and Individual gave her the school code to complete the application. She acknowledged filling out the application and confirmed she entered the year of graduation using the date on the transcript, with the understanding that Individual would make corrections and resubmit to the Board.
- xii. She decided to “let go of everything and start afresh.”
- xiii. She is currently working at Hospital as a RN.

DISCUSSION

The Applicant knowingly provided false information about her graduation date on her LPN application and submitted a fraudulent transcript in support of her application. LPN School did not meet the Board’s requirement of “substantially equivalent to the licensed practical nursing education programs approved in this State at the time of the applicant’s graduation.” The Applicant’s hesitancy in taking the NCLEX exam and her questioning of the accuracy of the transcript demonstrates that she was aware that she did not meet the Board’s statutory and regulatory requirements for LPN licensure by exam. Therefore, the Board finds that the Applicant violated Health Occ. § 8-316 (a) (1) and (30) with underlying grounds COMAR 10.27.01.05 B (1) (b).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Applicant violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ.:

§ 8-316 (a):

- (1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license for the applicant or for another;
- (30) Violates regulations adopted by the Board or an order from the Board; *to wit*, COMAR 10.27.01.05 B. An applicant for the licensed practical nurse licensure examination shall:
 - (1) Meet all requirements for a high school diploma or its

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equivalent and complete satisfactorily and meet all requirements for a diploma from:

(b) A licensed practical nursing education program in any other state, territory, or country determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent² to the licensed practical nursing education programs approved in this State at the time of the applicant's graduation.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Application for Exam of Licensed Practical Nurse License of **SHEILA ANGEH**, is **DENIED**, and it is further

ORDERED that this Consent Order is a **PUBLIC RECORD** under Md. Code Ann., General Provisions Article § 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Repl. Vol.).

6/1/2022
Date

Gary N. Hicks, MS, RN, CEN, CNE
The Board President's Signature
Appears on the Original Document

² COMAR 10.27.01.01 C. provides: "Substantially equivalent" means a registered nursing or licensed practical nursing education program that:

- (1) Contains theoretical learning experiences and related clinical learning experiences that include direct patient care within various settings consistent with program objectives, outcomes, or competencies conducted either concurrently with or after the theoretical learning experience; and
- (2) Meets the curriculum requirement for Maryland schools of nursing at the time of the applicant's graduation, including, but not limited to:
 - (c) Didactic and clinical instruction in nursing care of families and clients throughout the life span in a variety of care settings requiring nursing measures appropriate for: ...
 - (d) Didactic and clinical instructional content that includes, but is not limited to, the areas of:
 - (i) Medical and surgical nursing;
 - (ii) Maternal and child health;
 - (iii) Psychiatric nursing; and
 - (iv) Geriatric nursing;

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CONSENT

By this Consent, I acknowledge that I have read this Consent Order in its entirety and I hereby admit the truth of the Findings of Fact, and accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to legal counsel authorized to practice law in Maryland, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to request subpoenas for witnesses, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to introduce testimony and evidence on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I waive these rights, as well as any appeal rights under Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article § 10-222.

I sign this Consent Order voluntarily and without reservation, after having an opportunity to consult with an attorney and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this Consent Order.



SHEILA ANGEH
LPN EXAM APPLICANT

NOTARIZATION

STATE OF MARYLAND

CITY/COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21ST day of APRIL, 2022, before me, a Notary Public of the State of _____ of the City/County afore-said, personally appeared **SHEILA ANGEH** and declared and affirmed under penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Consent Order was his voluntary act and deed.



Notary Public

My commission expires: 05/22/2025

MOHAMMAD A. KHAN
Notary Public
Anne Arundel County
Maryland
My Commission Expires May 22, 2025