

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS
131 AIRLINE DRIVE, SUITE 301
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-6266
(504) 838-5791
FAX (504) 838-5279
www.lsbpne.com

DEFAULT ORDER IN THE MATTER OF

The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (Board)

v.

**Georgia Duplessis (respondent), LPN, license #941002
P. O. Box 740842, New Orleans, LA 70114**

On July 21, 2014, a formal complaint/notice of hearing (Attachment A) was mailed to the last known address of the respondent. The respondent did not reply to the complaint/notice of hearing, as required by the LAC 46:XLVII. 306.I and therefore the respondent waived the right to a formal hearing. In accordance with the LAC 46:XLVII.306.J, this order is issued by default.

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

The board's legal authority and jurisdiction, in adjudication proceedings, are provided for in:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 961 et seq., as amended; and
2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Section 101 et seq., as amended; and
3. The Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 49, Chapter 13, Section 950 et seq., as amended.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The respondent was issued a license to practice practical nursing in the state of Louisiana on August 10, 1994.
2. The respondent was admitted to the associate program at Delgado Community College Charity School of Nursing in the summer, 2010.
3. The respondent's clinical performance was deemed unsatisfactory which caused her to fail the final course in the curriculum in Spring, 2013.
4. Once informed of her final grade, the respondent began displaying conduct that was of concern. In a conversation with the administrator the respondent reported she was coming "full forces with guns". Her verbal and written communications, to the school, were erratic and threatening and her appearance was disheveled and unkempt. The respondent exhibited a flight of ideas and an inability to clearly communicate her thoughts. There was concern that the respondent was not fit to be in patient care situations.

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5. On July 31, 2013, the respondent was notified she was eligible to re-enroll with the condition that she obtain a physician and psychological examination indicating ability to meet the technical standards of the nursing program.
6. On January 13, 2014, the board suspended the respondent's practical nursing license for failure to respond to the board's request for information.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the findings of fact, enumerated above, the respondent is in violation of:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 969 A. (4)

- (c) is unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence habit, or other causes;
- (e) is mentally incompetent;
- (f) is guilty of unprofessional conduct;
- (g) has violated any provisions of this Part;

And 978 A (8) Violate any provisions of this Part and B.

2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections 306 T.

3. **being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;**
5. **being mentally incompetent;**
8. **being guilty of unprofessional conduct;**
 - a. **failure to practice practical nursing in accordance with the standards normally expected;**
 - b. **failure to utilize appropriate judgment in administering nursing practice;**
 - c. **failure to exercise technical competence in carrying out nursing care;**
 - j. **intentionally committing any act that adversely affects the physical or psychosocial welfare of the patient;**
 - r. **possess a physical or psychological impairment which interferes with the judgment, skills or abilities required for the practice of practical nursing;**
 - t. **violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.**

ORDER

In view of the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, the board issues the following order by default.

That the license of the respondent, **Georgia Duplessis, license #941002** be suspended for a minimum period of **three (3) months** from the date of this order.

During this suspension time, the respondent must abide by the following stipulations:

1. **Return license to the board office:**
 - A. The respondent shall return his/her current practical nursing license to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order.
 - B. The respondent shall not practice nursing during the period that his/her license is suspended.
2. **Obey all laws:**
 - A. The respondent shall obey all laws/rules governing the practice of practical nursing in this state and obey all federal, state, and local laws.
 - B. The respondent shall report to the board within **ten (10) days** any misdemeanor and/or felony arrest(s) or conviction(s).
3. **Notify board of change of address/telephone number:**
 - A. The respondent shall notify the board in writing within **ten (10) days** of any change in personal address or telephone number.
4. **Obtain the following evaluation(s):**
 - psychological**
 - A. Within **thirty (30) days** of the date of this order, the respondent shall undergo the above ordered evaluation(s). The evaluation(s) shall be conducted by a licensed certified psychologist/psychiatrist/addictionologist of the respondent's choice. The evaluation(s) shall be conducted using both objective and subjective assessment tools.

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- B. Prior to the evaluation(s), the respondent shall furnish the evaluator with a copy of the board order/consent order to include the findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the **Board Order Acknowledgement Form**. The evaluator shall verify receipt and review of these documents in the evaluation(s) of the respondent.
- C. The respondent shall execute the **Release of Information Form** to allow the evaluator to communicate with and supply information to the board.
- D. The respondent shall direct the evaluator to submit directly to the office of the board the **Release of Information Form, the Board Order Acknowledgement Form** and the evaluative report(s).
- E. The report of the evaluation(s) shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- i. history of chemical/alcohol use
 - ii. past and present treatment and/or recovery activities
 - iii. results of any testing conducted
 - iv. a summary of the findings
 - v. treatment plan, if applicable
 - vi. list of medications prescribed, if applicable
 - vii. an assessment as to respondent's ability to practice safely as a practical nurse
- F. The respondent shall satisfactorily complete any and all recommendations made by the evaluator. If treatment or therapy is recommended, the respondent shall, within **thirty (30) days** of the evaluator's report, initiate all treatment and/or therapeutic activities. If treatment or therapy is recommended, the respondent shall submit to the board the name and credentials of the therapists and/or the name and address of the treatment facilities.
- G. The respondent shall undergo subsequent evaluations by a board approved psychologist/psychiatrist/addictionologist if requested by the board following a relapse or for other related causes.
5. **Participate in any and all treatment/aftercare programs as prescribed:**
- A. The respondent shall enroll and participate in board approved treatment/aftercare programs as prescribed or recommended by the chemical addiction/psychological evaluator.

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- B. The respondent shall have the aftercare counselor submit to the board office proof of the respondent's entry into an appropriate facility, inpatient program, outpatient program, halfway house, residential long-term treatment, and/or a combination thereof.
- C. The respondent shall execute the **Release of Information Form** to allow the treatment facility/center/counselor/practitioner of record to communicate with and supply information to the board.
- D. The respondent shall submit evidence of **continued compliance with the treatment plan/counseling**. Treatment/aftercare compliance must be maintained throughout the duration of this order or until treatment is deemed complete.
- E. The respondent shall cause the aftercare counselor to submit quarterly to the board office progress reports indicating compliance with treatment recommendations. Reports are due on or before the 10th day of January, April, July, and October of each year until treatment is deemed complete.
- F. Upon completion of the treatment/aftercare program(s), the respondent shall have the aftercare counselor provide the board with documentation indicating the respondent's successful completion of the program.

6. **Select one primary pharmacy:**

- A. The respondent shall notify the board of the name, address, and telephone number of his/her selected pharmacy within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order. If the respondent acquires a new pharmacy, written notification must be received within **ten (10) days** of the first use.

7. **Select one primary care physician:**

- A. The respondent shall notify the board within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order, the name, address and telephone number of his/her selected primary care physician. The physician must hold an unencumbered license. All medical care received by the respondent for the duration of this order shall be furnished by the primary care physician or by the referral of the primary physician with the exception of emergency care. In the event emergency medical care is necessary, the respondent must notify the board within **three (3) days** from the date the emergency care was rendered if the treatment included administration of mood-altering, controlled, or addictive substances.

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- B. The respondent shall execute the **Release of Information Form** to allow the primary care physician/referred specialist to communicate with and supply information to the board.

8. **Obtain a State and F.B.I. Criminal Background Check:**

- A. Prior to any reinstatement request, the respondent must submit to state and F.B.I. criminal background record checks.
- B. Once the respondent receives the results from the F.B.I., the respondent is to forward the information to the board office. The board will receive the state background results directly from the state police.

9. **Fines/Fees:**

- A. The respondent is hereby fined **\$500.00, payable by cashier's check or money order only**, for the violations detailed in the conclusions of law, payable within **90 days** of the date of this order.
- B. The respondent must pay any/all fines/fees owed to the board, including a reinstatement fee, if/when applicable. Fines/fees are **payable by cashier's check or money order only**.

10. **Reinstatement requirements:**

- A. All stipulations of the suspension must be successfully fulfilled prior to a request for reinstatement.
- B. The respondent is to submit a written request for reinstatement to the board office.
- C. If a chemical and/or psychological assessment was stipulated before reinstatement can be considered, the provider who conducted the original assessment must submit a letter to the board office indicating that he/she feels the respondent can safely return to the practice of practical nursing and under what conditions (i.e., recommendations for on going treatment and a list of medications being prescribed). If the assessment includes a treatment plan, evidence of compliance with this plan must also be submitted to the board.

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Upon favorable review of the reinstatement request, the license of the respondent may then be placed on probation for a minimum period of **one (1) year**. During this probationary period the respondent shall follow **stipulations #2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 as stipulated above and the following stipulations as stipulated below:**

1. **License:**
 - A. The license of the respondent will be stamped “**PROBATION**”.
2. **Fines/Fees:**
 - A. The respondent is to submit a \$500.00 annual probation monitoring fee, **payable by cashier’s check or money order only.**
 - B. The probation monitoring fee is due within **three (3) months** of receiving a probated license, and annually thereafter until the probation is satisfactorily completed.
 - C. Failure to pay this fee in the time allotted will result in the immediate suspension of the respondent's practical nursing license.
3. **Employment:**
 - A. The respondent shall provide a copy of the entire board order/consent order including the findings of fact and conclusions of law immediately to any/all current employer(s) and at the time of application to any/all prospective employer(s).
 - i. If the respondent is already employed as an lpn, the respondent and the current employer shall enter into the board’s **Employer’s Agreement** (form(s) issued by board). The signed form(s) shall be submitted to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of this order.
 - ii. Upon obtaining new employment as an lpn, the respondent shall enter into the board’s **Employer’s Agreement** (form(s) issued by board) with the prospective employer. The signed form(s) shall be submitted to the board office within **ten (10) days** of the date of hire.
 - B. All current and prospective employers must agree to allow the respondent’s direct supervisor to monitor the respondent while on probation as well as timely submission of evaluations.

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- C. Probation will run concurrent with employment as an lpn.
- D. The respondent must be employed a minimum of 80 hours per month.
- E. The probationary period will not commence or progress until and unless the respondent is employed and delivering direct patient care as a licensed practical nurse.
- F. Failure to maintain stable employment may be grounds for termination of probation.
- G. The respondent must practice under the supervision of a nurse (rn or lpn) or physician whose license is unencumbered and must provide direct patient care as follows:
 - i. The respondent must be supervised on a regular and consistent basis by his/her assigned supervisor. The supervisor must observe and work closely enough with the respondent to be able to give an informed evaluation of the respondent. The employer must be willing to allow this supervision and provide opportunities for the same supervisor to evaluate the performance of the respondent.
 - ii. It is the respondent's responsibility to ensure that his/her supervisor submits the evaluation reports quarterly.
 - a. Reports are due on or before the 10th day of January, April, July, and October of each year. (Note: these forms will be provided to the employer)
 - b. Only the respondent's direct supervisor may complete the evaluations according to the observations made during the supervision.
- H. The respondent is prohibited from working in temporary staffing, as an agency nurse, for a nursing pool and/or in the home health setting, or in any other similar setting including but not limited to working in a teaching capacity, as a travel nurse and/or on an "as needed" basis - prn.
- I. The respondent shall notify the board in writing within **ten (10) days** of any change in employment. Changes in employment include accepting a new job, as well as resignation, or termination.

- J. Upon obtaining a prescription for controlled/abuse potential substance(s) while holding a probated license, the respondent is responsible for informing his/her employer within **three (3) days** from the date of the prescription(s).

Violations

The respondent is hereby notified that failure to comply with any stipulations of this order of the board may result in any or all of the following:

- a) immediate suspension of license, b) indefinite suspension of license, c) ineligibility for annual renewal of license, d) additional fines/penalties up to \$500.00 per occurrence, e) increased probationary period, f) summary suspension and g) revocation.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY SECTION OF THIS ORDER RELATED TO DRUG SCREENS, TREATMENT PLANS, AND/OR REGARDING ABUSE POTENTIAL PRESCRIPTION AND/OR ILLEGAL DRUGS MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF UP TO A FOUR (4) YEAR PERIOD WITHOUT A HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD. During the period of suspension, if related to substance abuse, appropriate consistent treatment must be obtained, and the respondent must show evidence of **two (2) consecutive years** of being drug/alcohol free immediately prior to the respondent's initiation of a reinstatement request. If during the **two (2) consecutive years** of sobriety the respondent relapses, the **two (2) consecutive years** of sobriety will re-start on the date of the relapse occurrence, provided that the respondent is in treatment.

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Public Records

This order is public record. All disciplinary actions of the board will be reported to all required data banks and agencies as required by law.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
Executive Director

8.25.2014
Date

Rendered this 25th day of August, 2014, and mailed this 25th day of August, 2014, by U.S. Postal Service, Regular and Certified Mail No. 7014 0150 0001 8287 9995 to:

Georgia Duplessis
P. O. Box 740842
New Orleans, LA 70114

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July 21, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7014 0150 0001 8287 6987

Georgia Duplessis
P. O. Box 740842
New Orleans, LA 70114

LICENSE #941002
D.O.B 11/06/1961

FORMAL COMPLAINT

The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, hereinafter called the board, files this formal complaint against the respondent. This serves as notice required by the Administrative Procedure Act R.S. 49:955(B).

A hearing will be conducted on the date and at the time specified here:

Date: **August 28, 2014**

Time: **2:30 p.m.**

Place: **301 Airline Drive, Suite 301, Metairie LA 70001**

The nature of the hearing is prosecution of the matter:

The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners

v.

Georgia Duplessis

The board's legal authority and jurisdiction, in this process of adjudication, are provided for in:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 961 et seq., as amended; and
2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Section 101 et seq., as amended; and
3. The Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, Title 49, Chapter 13, Section 950 et seq., as amended.

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The hearing concerns alleged violations of the following sections of the statutes/rules:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 969 A. (4):

- (c) is unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence habit, or other causes;
- (e) is mentally incompetent;
- (f) is guilty of unprofessional conduct;
- (g) has violated any provisions of this Part;

And 978 A (8) Violate any provisions of this Part and B.

2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections § 306 T.

- 3. being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;
- 5. being mentally incompetent;
- 8. being guilty of unprofessional conduct;
 - a. failure to practice practical nursing in accordance with the standards normally expected;
 - b. failure to utilize appropriate judgment in administering nursing practice;
 - c. failure to exercise technical competence in carrying out nursing care;
 - j. intentionally committing any act that adversely affects the physical or psychosocial welfare of the patient;
 - r. possess a physical or psychological impairment which interferes with the judgment, skills or abilities required for the practice of practical nursing;
 - t. violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.

The major issues involved include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1. The respondent was issued a license to practice practical nursing in the state of Louisiana on August 10, 1994.

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2. The respondent was admitted to the associate program at Delgado Community College Charity School of Nursing in the summer, 2010.
3. The respondent's clinical performance was deemed unsatisfactory which caused her to fail the final course in the curriculum in Spring, 2013.
4. Once informed of her final grade, the respondent began displaying conduct that was of concern. In a conversation with the administrator the respondent reported she was coming "full forces with guns". Her verbal and written communications to the school were erratic and threatening and her appearance was disheveled and unkempt. The respondent exhibited a flight of ideas and an inability to clearly communicate her thoughts. There was concern that the respondent was not fit to be in patient care situations.
5. On July 31, 2013, the respondent was notified she was eligible to re-enroll with the condition that she obtain a physician and psychological examination indicating ability to meet the technical standards of the nursing program.
6. On January 13, 2014, the board suspended the respondent's practical nursing license for failure to respond to the board's request for information.

You have ten (10) days prior to the date fixed for the hearing to respond (response form enclosed) to this complaint. If you fail to respond, in writing, within this time, you will be deemed to have waived the right to a hearing and action may be taken on this complaint by default, or the hearing may proceed in your absence.

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Please find enclosed, a copy of rules related to the formal hearing process.

RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REHEARING/APPEAL/JUDICIAL REVIEW

A decision issued by the board, after the hearing in this matter, may be appealed. LRS 37:976 provides: "Appeals from decisions of the board shall be to the Civil District Court of Orleans Parish..." The petition for appeal must be filed within thirty days of the date of the mailing of the notice of the board's final decision; copies of the petition must be served on the board and all parties of record (LRS 49:964). A request may also be made to the board for rehearing, re-opening or reconsideration of the board's order. This request must be filed within ten days from the date of the board order and set forth legally sufficient reasons for granting the requests. (LRS 49:959 and LAC 46:XLVII.306.S).

By: M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
Executive Director