

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

November 17, 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7014 2120 0004 1219 0466

Katherine Hightower
2807 Goodwill Rd.
Minden, LA 71055

License #20130991

Dear Ms. Hightower:

The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners has received a report regarding your practice as a licensed practical nurse. The report is concerning an incident that occurred while you were employed at Ringgold Nursing and Rehab. On August 24, 2014, you signed out narcotic pain medication for a resident. The resident reported that she had not received her medication. You were sent for a reasonable suspicion drug screen on August 25, 2014. The drug screen results were received on September 3, 2014 indicating a positive drug screen for expanded opiates, methadone, and ethyl alcohol. You admitted to taking narcotic medication prescribed to your significant other and consuming alcohol the night before your shift. You were terminated on September 3, 2014 as a result of your drug screen.

Louisiana Revised Statutes, 49:961 (C), in pertinent part, provides: "If the agency finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to the effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." LSA-R.S. 49:961(C).

The board has determined that the allegations against you are sufficiently serious to **summarily suspend your LPN license**, in accordance with the above cited authority, and hereby, issues the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that based on the information and/or record(s) obtained by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners, and a finding "that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action", in accordance with LSA-R.S. 49:961(C), the LPN license of the above named respondent, **Katherine Hightower**, is hereby summarily suspended, pending proceedings for revocation or other action, in accordance with Louisiana law.



Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
M. Lynn Ansardi, RN, Executive Director

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You must immediately cease and desist the practice of practical nursing and return your current practical nursing license to the board office.

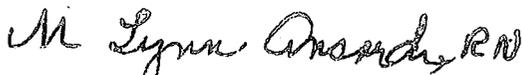
The board will schedule your case for the next available formal hearing and will notify you by mail of the date and time. Moreover, the board will continue its investigation of the allegations against you, about which you will be notified by formal complaint, to determine if you are in violation of the following:

3. **being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;**
4. **being habitually intemperate or addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs;**
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;**
 - g. **improper use of drugs, medical supplies, or patients' records;**
 - h. **misappropriating personal items of an individual or the agency;**
 - i. **falsifying records;**
 - j. **intentionally committing any act that adversely affects the physical or psychosocial welfare of the patient;**
 - p. **inappropriate, incomplete or improper documentation;**
 - q. **using or being under the influence of alcohol, while on duty, and/or while making application for employment, or using or being under the influence of drugs which impair judgment while on duty, or using or being under the influence of illegal drugs whether on or off duty;**
 - t. **violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.**

Louisiana Revised Statute, Title 37, Chapter 11. Nurses, Part II. Practical Nurses, Section 969, et. seq.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS



M. Lynn Ansardi, R.N.
Executive Director