

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

January 21, 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7008 1140 0002 8079 8203**

Joanetta Spears
2244 Bellaire Ln
Harvey, LA 70058

License # 230358

Dear Ms. Spears:

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 at Ochsner Medical Center Westbank. It alleges that on or about December 27, 2014, you were noted to be unresponsive at the nurses' station while on duty. A Code Blue was called and you were sent to the emergency room. There, you were asked to submit to a urine drug screen and alcohol breathalyzer test. The results of the breathalyzer indicated you were impaired. You were later terminated.

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, **Joanetta Spears**, is hereby summarily suspended, pending proceedings for revocation or other action, in accordance with Louisiana law.

M Lynn Ansardi RN

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;**
 - j. **intentionally committing any act that adversely affects the physical or psychosocial welfare of the patient;**
 - l. **leaving a nursing assignment without properly notifying appropriate personnel;**
 - 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.

Furthermore, you should immediately submit to our office a detailed narrative response to the allegation by using the enclosed response forms.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS**

M. Lynn Ansardi R.N.

M. Lynn Ansardi
Executive Director

MLA/dk