

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 12, 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
7015 1730 0001 8796 7563**

Karis Cockerham  
34471 Hwy 43  
Independence, LA 70443

License # 20130263

Dear Ms. Cockerham:

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 Longleaf Hospital. It alleges that on 10/2/15, you were assigned to care for an adolescent patient who had been transferred from a local emergency room after a suicide attempt. The patient began to have a panic attack. Your attempts to redirect the patient were unsuccessful. You placed the patient alone in a separate day room which could not be monitored from the nurses station, then closed the door. You did not assign a tech to the patient and you went to the nurse's station to call the physician. You failed to maintain the ordered line of sight observation of this patient. During this time, the patient hung himself from the wall mounted television in the dayroom.

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

*M Lynn Ansardi RN*

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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;**
- 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;**
  - l. leaving a nursing assignment without properly notifying appropriate personnel;**
  - 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.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF  
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS**

*M Lynn Ansardi RN*

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN  
Executive Director

MLA/dk