

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 4, 2016

Bessie Alexander
220 Tudor Street
Houma, LA 70364

Dear Ms. Alexander:

Enclosed you will find your Board Order.

You may go to the Board's website at www.lsbpne.com at any time to review the Administrative Code pertaining to practical nurses, including the Rules and Adjudication, Proceedings, §306.

If you have any questions or concerns, you should submit them in writing to the board office. Please include your current address and telephone number with any requests.

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 24th Judicial District Court of Jefferson 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).

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS**

M. Lynn Ansardi R.N.

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
Executive Director

MLA/kg

In the matter of: Bessie Alexander
License #20120403
D.O.B. 12/21/1980

This cause having come to be heard upon the complaint filed herein, the evidence and testimony entered before the presiding hearing officer on **July 13, 2016 and September 15, 2016**. The nature of the hearing was prosecution of the matter.

The following witnesses were called to testify on behalf of the board:

- Titania Gisclair St. Pierre, LPN – Volume I
- Erika Camper, RN, DON – Volume I
- Rachael Mollere, RN – Volume II

The respondent **was** present and did give sworn testimony on July 13, 2016, and **did** give sworn testimony via telephone at the continuation of the hearing on September 15, 2016.

There were no witnesses called to testify on behalf of the respondent.

During the formal hearing process, the following findings of fact and conclusions were confirmed based on the entire record:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On October 3, 2011, the board issued an order against the respondent requiring that she complete stipulations prior to being eligible to write the NCLEX-PN, due to the respondent's arrest history. She was convicted of two counts of Identity Theft. (Exhibits B1-B8)
2. On March 5, 2012, the respondent was issued a license to practice practical nursing in the state of Louisiana on probationary status. (Exhibit B9-B16)
3. On May 23, 2014, the respondent completed her probationary status and her license was unencumbered. (Exhibit B17)
4. The respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse with Maison De'Ville of Houma from March 20, 2012, until termination on April 24, 2015. An investigation was initiated against the respondent following suspicious activities involving narcotics.

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It was discovered that the respondent excessively documented the removal of narcotics, failed to document administration of narcotics, and documented removal of narcotics on patients without a physician order. Residents were interviewed and denied receiving narcotics from the respondent. (Exhibits C, D, E, and F)

On April 24, 2015, the respondent left the facility without completing the medication administration record, which resulted in staff being unable to determine which medications had been administered to patients. Staff attempted to contact the respondent and she responded that the facility should not call or text her again. It was discovered that the following medications were missing: 8 Xanax, 7 Tramadol, 8 Norco, 2 Clonazepam and 2 Fioricet. (Exhibits C, D, E, and F)

5. The respondent was hired as a licensed practical nurse with Heritage Manor of Houma on April 27, 2015. On July 28, 2015, the respondent administered a resident's 8:00 p.m. medications at 4:30 p.m. The medications were Clonazepam, Bystolic, Hydrocodone, Ropinirole HCL, and Seroquel. At 5:30 p.m., the resident was found unresponsive in the bathroom, slumped over in her wheelchair. The resident was unable to be aroused with verbal and tactile stimuli and sternal rub, but the resident's vital signs were within normal limits. The resident was transported to the emergency room for treatment. (Refer to Exhibits G, H, and I and hearing testimony pg. 52 through pg. 61 line 13 – volume I and pg. 140 line 9 pg. 142 line 16 – volume II)

The hearing officer finds the respondent not credible. The hearing officer feels the extensive evidence in clear. The respondent continuously failed to document administration of narcotics that she removed. She removed narcotics on patients without M.D. orders and even wrote in an order herself. (Refer to exhibit C15, and D59 and hearing transcript pg. 76 line 9 through pg. 77 line 4; pg. 84 lines 1-25; pg. 104 lines 6-10; and pg. 122 lines 3-17 where she admits to writing the physician order on the MAR). Several residents denied receiving narcotics she signed out and documented as given. According to Exhibit D128, she wrote in her nurses note that the patient had no complaints of pain. However, she documented that she administered Tramadol to him at 12 am. (Refer to exhibit D128 and D86 and hearing transcript pg. 134 lines 4-25) Narcotics were also found missing on her shift.

The hearing officer also feels the respondent was the contributing factor in a resident in her care being sent to the emergency room unresponsive. She over-medicated the resident. She was responsible for giving the resident 8pm medications at 4:30pm and she failed to document the administration of the medications, knowing the resident had just received the medications at 2pm. Hospital staff were unaware that the resident was over medicated, since the respondent had not documented giving the meds at 4:30pm. She was not truthful when testifying in regards to why she gave the medications 4 hours prior to the time the medications were ordered. (Refer to hearing testimony pg. 141 line 2 pg. 142 line 16 – volume II)

JURISDICTION

The board has jurisdiction over the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the facts set forth in the entire record and outlined herein above, the respondent is in violation of the following:

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;**
 - (d) **is habitually intemperate or is addicted to the use of habit forming drugs;**
 - (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;**
 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;**
 - o. **being guilty of moral turpitude;**
 - p. **inappropriate, incomplete or improper documentation;**
 - t. **violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.**

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ORDER

The matter of **Bessie Alexander #20120403**, on **November 4, 2016**, came on for final action by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the license of the respondent, **Bessie Alexander, license #20120403**, be **REVOKED**.

- 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 the board order.
- B. The respondent is hereby assessed a hearing assessment fee of **\$1,000.00, payable by cashier's check or money order only**, within **90 days** of the date of the board order.

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.

Rendered this **4th** day of **November, 2016** and signed this **4th** day of **November, 2016** at Metairie, Louisiana.

Myron L. Collins LPN

MYRON COLLINS, LPN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

M. Lynn Ansardi RN

M. LYNN ANSARDI, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mailed this **4th** day of **November, 2016**, by U.S. postal service certified mail return receipt **#7016 0600 0000 6616 3170** and regular mail to the following address:

Bessie Alexander
220 Tudor Street
Houma, LA 70364