

**IN THE MATTER OF**

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**BEFORE THE MARYLAND**

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**CELINA LABIATU**

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**BOARD OF NURSING**

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**License Number: R257266**

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**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-226(c)(2) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROCEDURE ACT**

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the “Board”) hereby orders the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of the Registered Nurse license, license number **R257266**, of **CELINA LABIATU** (the “Respondent”), in the State of Maryland. The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article (“SG”) § 10-226 (c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), which provides:

- A unit may order summarily the suspension of a license if the unit:
  - (i) finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action; and
  - (ii) promptly gives the licensee:
    1. Written notice of the suspension, the finding and the reasons that support the finding; and
    2. An opportunity to be heard.

The Board has reason, as set forth below, to find that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action under SG § 10-226 (c) (2).

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**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT  
OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Based on investigatory information obtained by, received by, made known to and available to the Board, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:<sup>1</sup>

1. On December 14, 2022, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse (“RN”) license in the State of Maryland. The Respondent’s RN license has a status of “Active-Compact” and is due to expire on August 28, 2023.

**MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF RN LICENSE (“RN APPLICATION”)**

**2021**

2. On or about July 15, 2021, the Respondent submitted an on-line Application for Endorsement of RN license. The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that she received her basic nursing education<sup>2</sup> from Siena College in Lauderhill, FL, and graduated on May 13, 2019 with an Associate Degree. The Respondent further indicated that Florida was her state of original licensure by exam.<sup>3</sup>
3. On July 16, 2021, the Respondent was issued a Temporary Registered Nurse license, T20210896, in the State of Maryland, which expired on October 14, 2021.

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<sup>1</sup>The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct identified herein are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the asserted facts. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent.

<sup>2</sup> The Basic Nursing Education question as it appears on the Board’s online application: “Please enter and verify your basic nursing education and school information. The basic nursing education is when you received your initial nursing education.”

<sup>3</sup> Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.27.01.10 provides, in part:

- A. An Applicant licensed to practice registered nursing ... in another state, territory, or country is eligible for licensure without examination if the applicant:
  - (3) Submits the following verifications directly to the Board from the appropriate authority:
    - (a) That at the time that [the] applicant graduated from the nursing education program, it was approved as a registered nursing .... education program in that state, territory, or country;
    - (b) That the applicant meet[s] the educational qualifications of this State at the time of the applicant’s graduation from the nursing education program.

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**2022**

4. On or about November 8, 2022, the Respondent submitted a second on-line Application for Endorsement of RN license. The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that she received her basic nursing education from [University]<sup>4</sup> and graduated on October 22, 2022 with a Baccalaureate in Nursing degree. The Respondent further indicated that Florida was her state of original licensure by exam.
5. On both applications, the Respondent agreed with the following statement: “I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge” and was advised that “providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board and may result in denial of licensure.”

**NURSYS**<sup>5</sup>

6. NCLEX<sup>6</sup> registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on July 13, 2021; education program: Siena Education Center, LLC; Applicant made eligible by: Florida.<sup>7</sup>
7. On July 14, 2021, the Respondent was issued a RN license by Exam in Florida, license number RN9571024. NURSYS indicates Siena College of Health, as the RN school connected to the Respondent’s Florida RN license.
8. On August 24, 2021, the Respondent was issued a Virginia RN license by endorsement.
9. According to NURSYS, the Respondent only holds a RN license in Maryland, Florida and Virginia.

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<sup>4</sup> The Respondent provided a transcript from University indicating that the Respondent was enrolled in a RN to BSN program.

<sup>5</sup> A national database provided through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), for verification of LPN/RN licensure, disciplinary action, and practice privilege.

<sup>6</sup> Licensure examination.

<sup>7</sup> The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 7/13/2021 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

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**BACKGROUND:**

**U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida**

**Information:**

10. On January 23, 2023, an Information was filed alleging that Eunide Sanon committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.

**Change of Plea/Factual Basis in Support of Plea**

11. On March 14, 2023, Eunide Sanon entered a plea of Guilty and the Court accepted the plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
12. The Court found there was a factual basis for the plea as provided in the Factual Basis in Support of Plea below:

Defendant Eunide Sanon, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College (collectively Siena).

....

From on or about November 17, 2018, through in or around October 2021, in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others sold false and fraudulent diplomas and educational transcripts to co-conspirators which falsely represented that the co-conspirators had completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training to obtain nursing degrees from Siena when in fact the co-conspirators had never completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training.

....

Eunide Sanon ..., and others mailed and caused others to mail, by United States Postal Service, fake diplomas, transcripts, and other false and fraudulent documents to co-conspirators and to state licensing agencies, including NYSED, on behalf of the co-conspirators.

....

Using the false and fraudulent continuing education certifications, diplomas, transcripts, and other fraudulent documents, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others assisted co-conspirators to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

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Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by Eunide Sanon and others, to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

**Affidavit of Eunide Sanon**

13. In a notarized affidavit, signed on December 15, 2022, Eunide Sanon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated Siena Education Center, LLC, doing business as Siena College of Health (“Siena”) from its incorporation on or about October 20, 2003 to its dissolution on or about September 23, 2022. Siena was located at 7491 Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 100, Lauderhill, Florida 33319.

Siena was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer medical programs to include a practical nursing program and an Associate in Science degree. The objective of the programs was “to provide quality education to students seeking careers in medically related fields.”

....

Siena was authorized to offer an Associate in Science nursing program. This was a 90-week program consisting of 74 semester hours including at least 50% clinical training. The objective of this program was “to prepare students for employment as Registered Nurses.”

....

From in or around November 2017 to in or around October 2021, Siena College of Health may have issued transcripts and diplomas to 2,016 individuals listed in Attachment B, who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

14. The Respondent’s name is listed in Attachment B of the Affidavit, along with the Respondent’s DOB and SSN.

**THE RESPONDENT’S RESPONSE TO THE BOARD’S REQUEST FOR  
INFORMATION**

15. On or about March 24, 2023, the Respondent, submitted a response to the Board’s request for information. The Respondent’s response includes the following:

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[What is the name of the nursing education program from which you received a diploma or degree?] Siena College of Health – ADN; [University] – BSN.

[What is the date you enrolled in your nursing education program?] Siena College of Health – 8/18; [University] – 8/21

[What is the date that you received a diploma or degree from your nursing education program?] Siena College of Health – 6/19; [University] – 11/22

[Did you attend any clinicals in person as part of your nursing education program(s)?]  
Yes.

[If you answered “yes” please list all of the courses for which you received clinical experience.] Psych (in person); Adult Health (in person/sim lab); maternal and child health (simulation lab).

The Respondent submitted an [unsigned] Official Transcript from Siena College of Health which includes the following information:

Completion Date: 5/15/2019

Course & Title (includes): NUR 306 Adult Health I – final grade B; NUR 309 Adult Health II – final grade B; NUR 308 Maternal & Child Nrsg. – final grade A; NUR 310 Psych. Nursing – final grade C.

Clinical/Lab (includes): NUR 306L & 306C – final grade P; NUR 309L & 309C – final grade P; NUR 308L & 308C – final grade P; NUR 310C – final grade P.

TC: Transfer Credit: 17.

The Respondent provided a Siena College of Health diploma which indicates that on May 15, 2019, the Respondent was conferred an Associate of Science in Nursing degree.

**BOARD INVESTIGATOR’S INTERVIEW**

16. During an in-person interview conducted on March 24, 2023, the Respondent provided the following the information:

- i. She went to Delaware in 2018 to meet with [individual] who she thought was the owner of Siena College. She started attending Siena in early September 2018.
- ii. She travelled to Florida between January 2019 to May 2019 for classes/clinicals. She had clinicals, including Psychiatric clinical, at four locations. Clinicals for Maternal & Child Health and Pediatrics were in the simulation lab.
- iii. She completed the RN program in 9 months, in May 2019.
- iv. [when shown the 17 transfer credits listed on the transcript]: she stated “I don’t know where this came from.”

**DISCUSSION**

17. In 2021, the Respondent submitted an application for licensure by endorsement and identified Siena College as her basic education program. In 2022, the Respondent

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submitted a second application for licensure by endorsement and falsely identified [University] as her basic education program.

18. The Respondent sat for and passed the NCLEX-RN in July 2021 and identified her education program as Siena Education Center. The Respondent received a RN license by exam in the State of Florida based on, among other things, the information she provided to the Florida Board of Nursing regarding her education program.
19. On her 2022 application to the Board, the Respondent provided false information about her RN basic education.
20. In a signed affidavit, Eunide Sanon, owner and operator of Siena Education Center, LLC, provided a list of individuals who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training at Siena College of Health, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, DOB and SSN.
21. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
22. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and opportunity to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained RN license, poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing investigative findings and reasons, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

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**ORDER**

It is hereby:

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Nursing by Maryland Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), the Registered Nurse license, license number **R257266**, of **CELINA LABIATU**, in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

**ORDERED** that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **APRIL 25, 2023, at 2:00 PM** before the Board at the Maryland Board of Nursing offices, 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215: and be it further

**ORDERED** that if, the suspension of the Respondent's license is continued following a Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent has the right to a full evidentiary hearing before the Board and a hearing will be scheduled before the Board if the Respondent submits a written request for an evidentiary hearing to the Board **no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing**; and be it further

**ORDERED** that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the future to any hearing on the merits of the summary suspension of the Respondent's license and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary Suspension; and it is further


**ORDERED** that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the summary suspension of the Respondent's license shall continue until further Order of the Board; and it is further



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**ORDERED** that this, “Order for Summary Suspension of Registered Nurse License” is a  
**PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.*& § 4-333  
(2019 Repl. Vol.).

March 29, 2023  
Date

  
K Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC  
E The Executive Director's Signature  
M Appears on the Original Document