IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND

CONSTANCE MOORE-ARTHUR * BOARD OF NURSING

License Number: R233547 * Case No.: 23-BP-012

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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 **R233547** of **CONSTANCE MOORE-ARTHUR**, (the "Respondent"), to practice as a Registered Nurse 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:

- (2) 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 ("SG") § 10-226(c) (2).

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION

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

1. On June 29, 2018, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse ("RN") license, R233547,

¹The allegations set forth in this document are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the Board's action. 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 in connection with this action.

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to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on April 28, 2024. The Compact² status of the Respondent's Maryland RN license is "Multi-State." According to the Maryland Board's MyLicense Office ("MYLO") database, the Respondent's current address is in the State of Maryland.

2. On April 8, 2010, the Respondent was issued a Practical Nurse ("LPN") license, LP47626, to practice as a practical nurse in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's license is currently active and is scheduled to expire on April 28, 2024. The Compact status of the Respondent's Maryland LPN license is "Multi-State."

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR RN LICENSE BY EXAM ("RN APPLICATION")

- 3. On or about May 3, 2018, the Respondent submitted an online <u>Maryland Initial Application</u> for licensure of RN by Exam ("RN Application"). On the RN Endorsement Application, the Respondent indicated that she graduated from Med-Life Institute West Palm Beach on December 1, 2017.
- 4. 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."

NCLEX-RN EXAM

5. NCLEX³ registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on June

³ NCLEX is an acronym for National Council Licensure Examination.

² The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is an agreement between Boards of Nursing of party states that allows nurses to have one Multistate nursing license with the ability to practice nursing in both their home state and other party states. In accordance with the Nurse Licensure Compact, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-7A-01.3(h) and § 8-7A-01.3(m) respectively, "Home state" means the party state that is the nurse's primary state of residence and, "Party state" means any state that has adopted this Compact.

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27, 2018.

6. As part of registering for the NCLEX-RN examination, the Respondent provided the

following information:

a. Name: Moore-Arthur, Constance Irene

b. Address: [Redacted] Clinton, MD

c. Date of Birth: [Redacted]

d. SSN: [Redacted]

e. Education program: Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC

f. Graduation date: December 2017

g. Applicant made eligible by: Maryland

7. On June 29, 2018, the Respondent was issued a RN license by exam in the State of

Maryland, license number R233547. NURSYS indicates Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC, as

the RN School connected to the Respondent's Maryland RN license.

PALM BEACH SCHOOL OF NURSING:

8. On July 8, 2021, a Criminal Complaint and Affidavit of Criminal Complaints were filed

alleging that Johanah Napoleon and other individuals committed (1) Conspiracy to Commit Health

Care Fraud; (2) Conspiracy to Commit False Statement Relating to Health Care Matters; and (3)

False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters.

9. The Affidavit alleged that Napoleon and other individuals worked together to sell

fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary

courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and a number of these unqualified individuals

subsequently obtained employment at various healthcare providers in the District of Maryland.

10. On June 2, 2022, an Information was filed alleging that Johanah Napoleon had committed

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Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud. Johanah Napoleon was identified as the

President of Palm Beach School of Nursing.

11. According to the <u>Information</u>, the <u>Purpose of the Conspiracy</u> was "for the defendant

[Johanah Napoleon] and her co-conspirators to unlawfully enrich themselves by, among other

things, selling fraudulent nursing diplomas, educational transcripts and other credentials, assisting

the purchasers in fraudulently obtaining licensure and ultimately obtaining employment in the

healthcare field."

12. In a notarized affidavit, signed on June 7, 2022, Johanah Napoleon declared under penalty

of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated the following schools:

. . . .

Med-Life Institute WPB LLC ("Med-Life") from September 28, 2015 until it was dissolved on September 23, 2016. Med-Life was located at 2695 N. Military Trail, Suite #17, West Palm Beach, FL 33409. Med-Life continued to issue diplomas and transcripts after its dissolution. Med-Life Institute was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer Nursing – Associate in Science Degree. The objective of the program was to "prepare the student to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Board of Nursing for Registered Nurse Education and meet eligibility for licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) in order to work as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings in a safe and effective manner." Med-Life was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a[n] Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1665 hours of instruction, which included 720 hours of clinical experience in a health care setting.

Palm Beach School of Nursing LLC ("Palm Beach School of Nursing") from its incorporation on or about April 11, 2016 to present... Palm Beach School of Nursing was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer a Nursing – Associate in Science Degree. The objective of the program was to "prepare the student to meet the requirements of the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Board of Nursing for Registered Nurse Education and meet eligibility for licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) in order to work as a Registered Nurse in a variety of settings in a safe and effective manner." Palm Beach School of Nursing was authorized to provide instruction on campus to individuals seeking a[n]

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Associate in Science Degree. This program required students to complete 1665 hours of instruction, which included 720 hours of clinical experience in a health care setting.

. . . .

From in or around October 2016 to present, ...Med-Life, Palm Beach School of Nursing, and ... issued transcripts and diplomas to 4989 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. [Emphasis Added.]

I am also aware there may be other individuals claiming to have completed the registered nursing program at Med-Life or Palm Beach School of Nursing who may possess illegitimate degrees and transcripts. However, those individuals not named in Attachment A are not known to me to have completed the required program hours and clinical training necessary to earn a nursing associate in science degree.

13. The Respondent's name, date of birth, and social security number, matching what she provided to register for NCLEX and obtain licensure in Maryland, appear on **Attachment B** of Johanah Napoleon's Affidavit indicating that the Respondent was issued a transcript and diploma without completing the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

BOARD'S INVESTIGATION

14. On or about March 8, 2023, the Respondent, through her attorney, submitted to the Board an <u>Investigative Questionnaire</u> which she signed on or about March, 2023 which states:

By my signature below, I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the information I provided in or attached to this Questionnaire is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

15. As part of the Questionnaire, the Respondent reported that she attended the following schools:

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- a. School #14 2008
- b. School #2 2014
- c. METLIFE Palm Beach School of Nursing 2016
- d. School #4 2019
- e. School #5 2021
- 16. In response to a question regarding where she resided while attending the nursing education program, the Respondent answered that she resided in Maryland while attending the above institutions.
- 17. In response to a question regarding whether she had taken any online courses as part of her nursing education program, the Respondent answered that she had taken online classes at School #2, METLIFE Palm Beach School of Nursing, School #4 and School #5.
- 18. In response to a question regarding the names and locations of her clinical experiences in school, the Respondent answered⁵:
 - a. METLIFE Palm Beach School of Nursing Rehabilitation Center 1⁶
 - Adult Nursing I Practicum
 - Psychiatric Nursing Practicum

⁴ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and educational facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. The Respondent may obtain the names of all individuals and educational facilities referenced in this document by contacting the administrative prosecutor.

⁵ In her response, the Respondent stated that she that the clinicals she attended at School #1 were Fundamentals of Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing I, Medical Surgical Nursing II, Community and Home Health Nursing, Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, Gerontological Nursing and Maternal and Child Health Care Nursing. The Respondent stated that the clinical she attended at School #4 was Professional Capstone and Practicum. The Respondent also stated that the clinicals she attended at School #5 were Psychopathology and Diagnostic Reasoning Practicum, Psychotherapy with Multiple Modalities Practicum, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Care Across the Lifespan I Practicum and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Care Across the Lifespan II Practicum.

⁶ In her response, the Respondent provided a telephone number for Rehabilitation Center 1 with an area code of (202). Area code 202 is the telephone area code for Washington, D.C.

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- Adult Nursing II Practicum
- 19. In Response to a question regarding the number of days and number of hours for each day that she attended clinicals for each course, the Respondent answered:

METLIFE Palm Beach School of Nursing

• Advanced Nursing Skills/Adult Nursing (MedSurg) I Practicum

07/05/2107	10	
07/06/2017	10	
07/12/2017	10	
07/13/2017	10	
07/19/2017	10	
07/20/2017	10	
07/26/2017	10	
07/27/2017	10	
08/02/2017	10	
08/03/2017	10	

• Adult Nursing (MedSurg) II Practicum

08/09/2017	10
08/10/2017	10
08/16/2017	10
08/17/2017	10
08/23/2017	10
08/24/2017	10
08/30/2017	10
08/31/2017	10
09/06/2017	10
09/07/2017	10

Psychiatric Nursing Practicum

09/13/2017	10	
09/14/2017	10	
09/20/2017	10	
09/21/2017	10	X
09/27/2017	10	
09/28/2017	10	
10/04/2017	10	
10/05/2017	10	

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10/11/2017	10
10/12/2017	10

20. The Respondent submitted an <u>Official Transcript</u> from Palm Beach School of Nursing which includes the following information:

Dates Attended Program Course: 06/27/2016 - 12/01/2017

Campus: West Palm Beach, Florida

Course	Nursing Course Title	Credit	Grade
Number		Hours	
HSC 101	Introduction to Health Care	3.0	
HSC 102	Human Anatomy and Physiology (Lab: 2 hours)	3.0	
HSC 103	Human Development	3.0	
HSC 104	Microbiology	3.0	
GEC 101	College Writing	3.0	
GEC 102	College Algebra	3.0	
GEC 103	Psychology	3.0	
GEC 104	Sociology	3.0	
GEC 105	Pathophysiology	3.0	
NUR 100	LPN to RN Transition	3.0	
NUR 104	Critical Thinking & the Nursing Process	3.0	
NUR 103	Pharmacology	3.0	
NUR 201	Adult Nursing I	3.0	
NUR 202	Adult Nursing I Practicum (lab: 1 hour, clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 203	Psychiatric Nursing	3.0	
NUR 204	Psychiatric Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour, clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 205	Maternal and Newborn Nursing	3.0	
NUR 206	Maternal and Newborn Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour, clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	~
NUR 207	Pediatric Nursing	3.0	
NUR 208	Pediatric Nursing Practicum (lab: 1 hour, clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 301	Adult Nursing II	3.0	
NUR 302	Adult Nursing II Practicum (clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 401	Advanced Nursing Skills (clinical: 2 hours)	3.0	
NUR 402	Professional Nursing Leadership	3.0	

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DISCUSSION

21. The Respondent submitted registration information to NCLEX indicating that she attended

Palm Beach School of Nursing, LLC.

22. The Respondent submitted information on her RN application to the Board indicating that

she received her basic nursing education from Med-Life Institute – West Palm Beach and that she

graduated on December 1, 2017.

23. In her written response to the Board, the Respondent stated that she received an Associate

in Science Degree of Nursing degree from METLIFE - Palm Beach School of Nursing.

24. The Respondent provided false/contradictory information about her RN education.

25. In a signed affidavit, Johanah Napoleon, owner and operator of Palm Beach School of

Nursing and Med-Life Institute - West Palm Beach, provided a list of individuals who do not

complete the required program hours and clinical training at Palm Beach School of Nursing and

Med-Life Institute, necessary to receive a transcript or nursing associate in science degree. The

Respondent was identified on the list by name, date of birth and social security number.

26. The Respondent does not meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure

in the State of Maryland.

27. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and

opportunity to practice in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently

obtained RN license poses a serious risk 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 R233547, of Constance Moore-Arthur in the State of Maryland is hereby

SUMMARILY SUSPENDED; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on March 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

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 certificate 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 certificate 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 certificate 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 9, 2023

Date

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

Maryland Board of Nursing