

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

February 7, 2017

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7016 0600 0000 6616 4405**

**Amber Thomas
1781 Blvd De Province Apt A
Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

License #20130957

Dear Ms. Thomas:

The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners (LSBPNE) has received information alleging that you have violated the law relating to the practice of practical nursing. A summary of the accusations being made against you is as follows:

On November 24, 2016, while on duty as a licensed practical nurse with Oceans Behavioral Hospital, the respondent presented with an altered mental state. The respondent was witnessed screaming, speaking in a loud voice with pressured speech, exhibiting religiosity, jumping up and down, and singing. The respondent was sweating and had to be dragged off of the unit and away from patients. She was transported and treated at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center where she admitted to taking drugs to help her stay awake. The respondent reported a six month history of Norco, Oxycodone and THC use. She further admitted to abusing cocaine for a period of three months and occasional use of Adderall and Klonopin. The respondent's drug screen was positive for Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, THC, Cocaine, and Opiates.

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 practical nursing license**, in accordance with the above cited authority, and hereby, issues the following Order:

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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, **Amber Thomas, license #20130957**, is hereby summarily suspended, pending proceedings for revocation or other action, in accordance with Louisiana law.

Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners
M. Lynn Ansardi, RN, Executive Director

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;**
 - 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;**
 - 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.**

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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 allegations.

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS**

M Lynn Ansardi RN

M. Lynn Ansardi, RN
Executive Director

MLA/kg