

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING

IN THE MATTER OF: BETTY JOSEPH
COMPLAINT ID #: C24-0537C

IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST OPERATIONS

Now comes the Director of Health (the "Director") of the Rhode Island Department of Health ("RIDOH") who, pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-34-1 *et seq.*, § 23-1-21, and 216-RICR-40-05-3.3, makes the following findings and enters this Order to Cease and Desist Operations (this "Order"):

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

1. That Betty Joseph ("Respondent") is not licensed in the state of Rhode Island as a professional nurse.
2. That on or about May 17, 2024, a complaint submitted to RIDOH stated that Respondent worked unsupervised as a nurse at a skilled nursing facility located in Rhode Island on May 4, 2024, into May 5, 2024.
3. The Respondent made entries in thirty-four (34) residents' electronic medical records and documented that Respondent administered medications and/or treatments to five (5) residents with a feeding tube or tracheostomy.
4. That R. I. Gen. Laws § 5- 34-2 requires any person who practices as a registered nurse in Rhode Island to first obtain a license (*i.e.*, to be a duly licensed registered nurse pursuant to Rhode Island law).
5. That actions of Respondent described above in paragraphs 2 and 3 violate the laws cited above in paragraph 4.

Accordingly, Based Upon the Foregoing:

- A. Respondent shall immediately **cease and desist** from performing any activity that (further) violates R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-34-1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, engaging in the unlicensed practice of a registered nurse resulting in contravention of R. I. Gen. Laws § 5- 34-2, and performing the duties of, and/or holding themselves out as a registered nurse in the State of Rhode Island.

- B. If Respondent fails to immediately cease and desist operations as directed by this Order, RIDOH may take any additional enforcement action against Respondent not otherwise precluded by law which could include fines and/or imprisonment pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws § 23-1-25.
- C. Notwithstanding any further findings, actions, or sanctions by RIDOH, this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further notice.

An administrative hearing may be requested within 15 days of service of this Immediate Order, by writing to the Director pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-1-1 *et seq.* If no hearing request is made within 15 days of this Order, the Order shall not be reviewable by any court or agency.

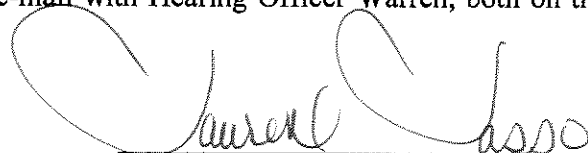
Dated: June 12, 2024



Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 401
Providence, RI 02908

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I (i) served this Order by certified and regular mail on Ms. Betty Joseph at the address below and (ii) filed this Order by e-mail with Hearing Officer Warren, both on this 12th day of June 2024.



Betty Joseph
750 Burt Street
Taunton, MA 02870

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