

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION  
BOARD OF NURSE REGISTRATION  
AND NURSING EDUCATION**

**vs.**

**ARTHUR VAZ, LPN (LPN09019)**

**ORDER**

Pursuant to Section 5-34-25 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment, a complaint was filed with the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education (hereinafter referred to as "Board") charging Arthur Vaz, LPN, Respondent, with violation of Chapter 5-34 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, 2004 Reenactment.

After consideration by the Investigating Subcommittee of the Board, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent.

1. Respondent is a practical nurse and licensed to practice nursing in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That on June 12, 2006, Respondent entered into a Consent Agreement reinstating his practical nurse license on a two (2) year probationary status after it being surrendered for substance abuse.
3. That in April 2007, Respondent was terminated from Berkshire Place and reported to the Board for repeated failure to comply with professional standards in the destruction of the narcotic Oxycontin, whereas Respondent was never witnessed in the proper disposal of this medication.

4. That in August 2007, Respondent was terminated from Haven Health Center of Warren and reported to the Board for directing unlicensed staff to administer narcotic medication to patients that he had pre-poured.
5. That the conduct described in paragraph three (3) and four (4) above constitutes unprofessional conduct as defined in Sections 5-34-19 (c) in that Respondent's actions fail to conform to the standards established by the nursing profession.

Based upon the foregoing, the Board hereby enters the following Order:

1. That the practical nurse license issued to the Respondent is hereby suspended effective March 10, 2008 for three (3) years.
2. That at the time Respondent seeks reinstatement of his practical nurse license, he shall submit documentation to the Board evidencing that he is capable and competent to engage in the practice of nursing. Such documentation shall include, but not limited to evidence of reports from a Board approved health care provider that the Respondent has consistently been undergoing treatment for alcohol and/or substance abuse, and such other information as the Board deems appropriate at this time.
3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect pending further Order of the Board.

Entered as an Order of the Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education at a meeting held on March 10, 2008.

Date: March 10, 2008

Sharon Smith / Paula R McCreary, RN, MS  
President, Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education / Director of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education