

State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

Department of Health
Office of Health Professions Regulation

vs.

Jennifer Delacruz

ORDER

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. (2001 Reenactment) Section 23-17.9-8 and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, the Rhode Island Department of Health (hereinafter "Department"), after review and consultation with the Advisory Board for Nursing Assistants, has investigated complaint charging Jennifer Delacruz (hereinafter "Respondent") with a violation of Section 23-17.9-8 of the General Laws.

After consideration by the Department, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent:

1. Respondent is a Nursing Assistant licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island.
2. That all pertinent times, Respondent was employed as a Nursing Assistant at Harris Health Center-North, Central Falls, Rhode Island.
3. That on or about 20 December 2002, Respondent acted unprofessionally by witnessing another Nursing Assistant and visitor spinning a patient in her wheelchair and verbally abusing this patient, and that Respondent failed to report this incident.
4. That the conduct described in paragraph three (3) herein constitutes unprofessional conduct pursuant to Section 23-17.9-8 (3) and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder.

Based on the foregoing, the Rhode Island Department of Health hereby enters the following:

1. Nursing Assistant license issued to the Respondent is hereby suspended for a period of at least two (2) years commencing upon 13 March 2004.
2. At the time Respondent seeks reinstatement of the Nursing Assistant license, Respondent must submit evidence of completion of in-service programs covering professionalism and patients' rights. Respondent must also submit documentation to the Board evidencing that Respondent is capable and competent to engage in the practice of Nursing Assistant. In addition, the Respondent must meet all education, training and examination requirements for licensure in effect at the time Respondent applies for licensure.

2. That should Respondent fail to comply with the terms of this Order, Respondent shall be subject to further disciplinary sanctions.
3. That this Order shall remain in full force and effect pending further Order by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Ordered this 20th day of February 2004

Charles Alexandre

Charles Alexandre, Acting Chief
Health Professions Regulation