

**In the Matter of** § **BEFORE THE TEXAS**  
**Vocational Nurse License Number 1049072** §  
**Issued to CATHERINE AKHIGBE,** §  
**Respondent** § **BOARD OF NURSING**

### **FORMAL CHARGES**

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, CATHERINE AKHIGBE, is a Vocational Nurse holding license number 1049072, which is in current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record, and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

### **CHARGE I.**

On or about August 2, 2021, Respondent submitted an application for licensure by endorsement to the Board attesting that she completed a nursing education program from Sacred Heart International Institute, Inc. However, Respondent obtained the diploma/degree through fraudulent means by purchasing a fraudulent diploma/transcript. The Respondent was named by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG) and its law enforcement partners as part of national scheme involving the sale and use of false and fraudulent nursing degree diplomas/transcripts.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Sections 301.451 and 301.452(b)(1),(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.5 and §217.12(6)(H)&(6)(I).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 213.27 - 213.33.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

Filed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



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James W. Johnston, General Counsel  
Board Certified - Administrative Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Deputy General Counsel  
Board Certified - Administrative Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
State Bar No. 24036103

JoAnna Starr, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24098463

Jacqueline A. Strashun, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 19358600

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24086670

1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P: (512) 305-8657  
F: (512) 305-8101 or (512) 305-7401

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