

State of Vermont Secretary of State Office of Professional Regulation Board of Nursing

In re: CHRISTINE ABAIR
Docket No. 2026-16
License No. 026.0112646
Appearances: Prosecutor: Zoe Newman, Esq
Respondent: Did not appear
Hearing Officer: Patricia Gabel

DEFAULT ORDER

The Administrative Law Officer held a hearing in the above matter electronically via the Microsoft Teams Meeting platform on March 31, 2026. This public hearing was held pursuant to a Notice of Hearing. Respondent did not attend and was not represented by counsel.

Authority

The profession of Nursing is regulated by the Board of Nursing pursuant to 26 VSA Chapter 28. The Board has authority to issue warnings or reprimands; suspend, revoke, limit, or condition current licenses; or prevent the renewal of lapsed licenses if, after a disciplinary hearing, the Board finds that the Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct pursuant to 3 V.S.A. sec. 129(a); 3 V.S.A. sec 129a; 3 V.S.A. sec. 814(d); 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing ["ARBN"], and the Administrative Rules of Practice of the Office of Professional Regulation ["ARPOPR"].

Findings of Fact

1. The Specification of Charges was filed in this matter on February 2, 2026, alleging [1] the making or the causing to be made of a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation in procuring or attempting to procure registration or

renewal of a license; and [2] the failure to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of a profession.. A copy of the Specification of Charges is attached to this Default Order.

2. Respondent is licensed by the State of Vermont as a Registered Nurse (RN) under license number 026.0112646. This license was first issued on June 24, 2015, and currently has an expiration date of March 31, 2027.
3. On February 3, 2026, a Notice of Charges was sent to Respondent by certified mail, first-class mail, and email.
4. The address used by the Docket Clerk as Respondent's address was the address set forth in the computer system of the Office of Professional Regulation.
5. The green receipt associated with the certified mail notice was not returned to the Docket Clerk. Neither the first-class mail nor email notices were returned to the Docket Clerk as undeliverable.
6. No answer has been filed, and Respondent has not provided any communication of good cause for failure to answer.
7. I find service of the notice of the Specification of Charges to be proper.
8. Under ARPOPR Rule 3.4, a default may be entered when an answer is not filed within the required time period.
9. On March 4, 2026, the Prosecutor filed a Motion for Default.
10. On March 5, 2026, the Docket Clerk sent a Notice of Hearing for Default Judgment due to Failure to Answer to the Respondent at the same address to which the Specification of Charges was sent. This Notice advised Respondent of the upcoming default hearing to find her in default and advised: "If you wish to contest the charges you must contact the office immediately at (802) 828-2367 and show good cause for failing to answer the charges against you." This Notice was mailed by certified mail, by regular mail, and by email. The green receipt associated with the certified mail notice was not returned to OPR. Neither the first-class mail nor email notices were returned as undeliverable.
11. I find service of the Notice of Hearing for Default Judgment to be proper.
12. On March 25, 2026, the Prosecution filed the State's Sanction Recommendation for Default Hearing in this case.
13. The Hearing Officer of the Board finds the Respondent to be in default based upon Ms. Bowen's testimony, the State's Motion for Default, the Prosecution's presentation, and by taking official notice of the Office of Professional Regulation and Board files.

14. The allegations contained in the Specification of Charges are therefore treated as the facts on which the Board may issue an order of professional discipline. ARPOPR Rule 3.4, 3 V.S.A. Sec. 809(d), and 3 V.S.A. Sec 814(c).
15. I shall treat the allegations in the Specification of Charges as proven and incorporated by reference into this proposed Order as if set forth at length herein. See ARPOPR Rule 3.4.
16. I find the sanctions requested by the State to be appropriate sanctions.

Conclusions of Law

Respondent has received actual or constructive notice of the charges in this matter as indicated by OPR's and the Board's file, the testimony of the Docket Clerk, Julie Bowen, and the Prosecution's presentation and representations. Because Respondent has failed to answer the charges, the factual allegations in the Specification of Charges are treated as if proved. ARPOPR Rule 3.4. Accordingly, the Board may find, based upon the finding of Default from this Default Hearing held pursuant to 3 V.S.A. §809(d), that Respondent has engaged in the unprofessional conduct alleged in the Specification of Charges, which is incorporated into this Proposed Order by reference.

26 V.S.A. Sec 1584(a)(3) prohibits anyone from "practicing nursing unless duly registered and currently licensed to do so under the provisions of this chapter".

The Board may find that Respondent committed two (2) violations:

- 26 V.S.A. sec. 1582(a)(1): Making or causing to be made a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation in procuring or attempting to procure registration or renewal of a license; and
- 3 V.S.A. sec 129(a)(3); 26 V.S.A. sec. 1584(a)(3): Failing to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession by making or causing to be made a false or fraudulent statement or representation in renewing a license when Respondent stated on her 2025 Application and on her Waiver Request that she had not practiced with an expired license when she had worked four shifts as an RN at a Nursing Home when her license was expired; and, further, that such act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 V.S.A. sec. 1582(a)(1)

Proposed Order

In accordance with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consistent with the recommendation by the State, the Board does find:

1. Respondent made or caused to be made a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation in procuring or attempting to procure registration or renewal of a license in violation of 26 V.S.A. Sec. 1582(a)(1); and
2. Respondent failed to comply with provisions of federal or state statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession in violation of 3 V.S.A. Sec. 129(a)(3) and 26 V.S.A. Sec. 1584 (a)((3); and
3. Such act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described in the Specification of Charges constitute grounds for discipline because Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 V.S.A. Sec. 1582 (a)(1).

The Board does ORDER that:

1. The Respondent's license is **WARNED**.
2. The Respondent is assessed an **ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY** in the amount of two hundred and sixty dollars (\$260.00) to be paid within ninety (90) days of the date of entry of the Default Order.
3. Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 125(b)(11), a **DISCIPLINARY ACTION SURCHARGE** in the amount of two-hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) is assessed against Respondent. Respondent shall remit payment within six (6) months of the date of entry of this Order. Payment of the surcharge may be on a payment plan if needed. Failure to remit payment may result in the non-renewal of Respondent's license/registration.
4. The Respondent's license is **CONDITIONED** as follows:
 - a. Re-issuance of License. Upon the commencement of these conditions and the renewal of Respondent's license, if expired, Respondent shall be issued a license labeled "conditioned."
 - b. Monitoring. The Office of Professional Regulation, through the Enforcement Case Manager, shall be responsible for monitoring Respondent's compliance with these Conditions. All reports and/or correspondence regarding compliance with these conditions shall be submitted to the Case Manager in accordance with the Conditions listed below.
 - c. Required Coursework. Respondent shall, within ninety (90) days following the entry of this Order, at her own expense, complete three (3) hours of pre-approved courses, which must include the following topics: Ethics. For pre-approval, Respondent must submit to the Case

Manager the name of each course, the name of the sponsoring organization, and a description of the course content and/or syllabus. Respondent must achieve a passing score on the post-tests for the courses, and submit test results, workbooks completed in full and in a satisfactory manner, and certificates of completion to the Office of Professional Regulation. Failure to complete the courses within the prescribed timeframe shall constitute a violation of this Order. The coursework may not be counted toward any continuing education requirement of licensure.

- d. Interview with the Board or its Designee. Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board or its designee upon request.
- e. Notification of Place of Employment/Personal Address/Telephone Number. Within ten (10) days of the date of entry of this Default Order, Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of Respondent's current place of employment, personal address, and telephone number. Respondent shall further notify the Board, in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of any change in employment (including resignation or termination), personal address, or telephone number.
- f. Notification to Other States. In the event Respondent is licensed in Nursing in any other state(s), Respondent must inform the licensing board of the state(s) in which Respondent is licensed of the conditional status of Respondent's Vermont license within thirty (30) days of the date of entry of this Order.
- g. License Renewal. This Order does not automatically extend the license and Respondent must comply with the requirements for license renewal.
- h. Costs. Respondent shall bear all costs of complying with this Default Order.
- i. Violation of this Order. If Respondent violates this Order, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may rescind or modify this Order and impose additional appropriate disciplinary actions. If a complaint of unprofessional conduct is made against Respondent during the term of this Order, this Order shall be automatically extended until the unprofessional conduct matter is resolved.
- j. Completion of Conditional License Period. Respondent shall submit a petition to the Docket Clerk to remove any and all conditions from Respondent's license. The State will support or oppose Respondent's petition. The Board will conduct a hearing if necessary. Respondent bears the burden and must present proof that Respondent has fully complied with the terms of this Order and these conditions are no

longer necessary to protect the public.

The Hearing Officer reports the above findings of facts, conclusions of law, and the proposed order to the Board or Director with the recommendation that the Board or Director approve them and enter the Order as above.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2022.

Signed by:

0101E909B7A6441

Patricia Gabel
Hearing Officer of the Vermont Board of Nursing

The Vermont Board of Nursing, or the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, considered the report of findings of fact and conclusions of law on 5/11/2026. After considering the report, the Hearing Authority takes the following action:

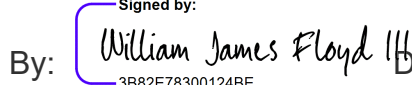
/ / Rejects the report and schedules the matter for hearing.

/ / Schedules the matter for additional evidence.

/ X / Accepts the report, adopts the findings of fact and conclusions of law, and orders the recommended discipline as set forth in the proposed order above.

SO ORDERED.

Vermont Board of Nursing or Director of the Office of Professional Regulation

By:  Date: 5/11/2026 , 2022
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Vermont Board of Nursing

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DATE OF ENTRY: 5/11/2026

APPEAL RIGHTS

This is a final administrative determination by the Vermont Board of Nursing or Director of the Office of Professional Regulation. A party aggrieved by a final decision of a board or hearing authority may appeal this decision by filing a written Notice of Appeal with the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State, 89 Main Street, Fl. 3, Montpelier, VT 056203402 within 30 days of the entry of this order. If an appeal is filed, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall assign the case to an appellate officer. The review shall be conducted on the basis of the record created before the board. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in the record, proof on that issue may be taken by the appellate officer. 3 V.S.A. §§ 129(d) and 130a.



State of Vermont
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of Professional Regulation
89 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
sos.vermont.gov

Sarah Copeland Hanzas, Secretary of State
S. Lauren Hibbert, Deputy Secretary
Jennifer B. Colin, Director

March 5, 2026

Christine Abair
7 Bowles Lane
St. Albans, VT 05478-2332

Case: In Re Christine Abair
License: 026.0112646
Docket No.: 2026-16

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR DEFAULT JUDGEMENT

The Tribunal has scheduled a hearing for default judgment to be held on:

Date: March 31, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.

You have received notice of the charges and have failed to answer them within 20 days as required by law. Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Section 809(d), the tribunal is authorized to enter a default judgment, meaning the allegations will be assumed to be true, and an appropriate sanction may be issued.

This hearing will take place remotely. You can participate either online or by telephone.

To join online, go to the OPR public calendar (<https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/opr-event-calendar/>) and select the blue meeting link on the date of your hearing. Then select "Click here to join the meeting". Please see the attached Microsoft Teams Meetings Instructions for additional information about how to join your hearing remotely from the OPR public calendar.

If you wish to contest the charges you must contact the office **immediately** at (802) 828-2367 and show good cause for failing to answer the charges against you.

Sincerely,

/s/Julie Bowen
Docket Clerk

Enclosures: *States Request for Default & OPR Calendar Remote Hearing Participation Instructions*

cc: Patricia Gabel, Esq., Hearing Officer
Zoe Newman, Esq., Prosecuting Attorney
Kristin Donnelly, Case Manager
Christine Abair, Respondent, First Class Mail, Certified Mail, Email



**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING**

IN RE:	)	
Christine Abair	)	Docket No. 2026-16
License No. 026.0112646	)	

MOTION FOR DEFAULT

NOW COMES the State of Vermont, by and through Prosecuting Attorney Zoe Newman, and pursuant to Rule 3.3 of the Administrative Rules of Practice for the Office of Professional Regulation (“ARPOPR”), hereby moves that the Board of Nursing (the “Board”) find Respondent Christine Abair (“Respondent”) in default for the reasons stated in the following Memorandum of Law.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

Rule 3.3 of ARPOPR requires a respondent to file an answer to a specification of charges “within 20 days of the date on which the notice of charges was mailed by the Director.” Under the Rules, if a respondent fails to file a timely answer, a default hearing shall be conducted. ARPOPR 3.4. At the default hearing, “the allegations of the charges will be treated as proven and disciplinary action will be taken.” *Id.*

In this matter, Respondent has failed to file a response to the charges and is, therefore, in default. The State filed the Specification of Charges against Respondent on February 2, 2026. Respondent was notified of the charges by letter from the Docket Clerk of the Office of Professional Regulation, sent by both certified and first class mail, on February 2, 2026. *See* ARPOPR 3.2. Respondent’s answer was due on or before February 22, 2025. *See* ARPOPR 3.4. As of this date, Respondent has failed to submit an answer.

STATE OF VERMONT



Prosecuting Attorney
Office of
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Regulation 89 Main
Street
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Montpelier,

WHEREFORE, in accordance with ARPOPR 3.3, et seq., the State respectfully requests that the Board schedule a default hearing and find Respondent in default.

DATED: March 4, 2026.

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By: *Zoe Newman*
Zoe Newman
Prosecuting Attorney
Zoe.newman@vermont.gov

STATE OF VERMONT



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**STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF NURSING**

IN RE:	)	
CHRISTINE ABAIR	)	Docket No. 2026-16
License No. 026.0112646	)	
	)	

SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES

NOW COMES the State of Vermont (State) and makes the following charges against Registered Nurse Christine Abair:

Board Authority

1. The Board has the authority to issue warnings or reprimands; suspend, revoke, limit, or condition current licenses; or prevent the renewal of lapsed licenses if, after a disciplinary hearing, the Board finds that the Respondent has engaged in unprofessional conduct. 3 V.S.A. § 129(a); 3 V.S.A. § 129a; 3 V.S.A. § 814(d); 26 V.S.A. Chapter 28; the Administrative Rules of the Board of Nursing (the ARBN); and the Rules of the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR Rules).

Statement of Facts

2. Christine Abair (Respondent) of Saint Albans, Vermont is licensed by the State of Vermont as a Registered Nurse (RN) under license number 026.0112646. This license was first issued on June 24, 2015, and expires on March 31, 2027.
3. On March 31, 2025, Respondent's Vermont RN license expired.
4. RN S.M., an employee at a nursing home in Chittenden County, Vermont, (Nursing Home), reported that Respondent worked for said Nursing Home and worked four shifts as an RN, on May 5, 2025, May 7, 2025, May 8, 2025, and May 9, 2025.
5. On May 9, 2025, Respondent submitted a renewal application for her expired RN license (2025 Application).
6. As part of the 2025 Application, Respondent was asked: "Have you been practicing in Vermont since your license expired?"
7. Respondent answered "No" to this question.
8. As part of the 2025 Application, Respondent was asked: "Please provide a detailed written explanation of the extent and location of your practice since this license expired. Incomplete statements will result in a deficiency."

STATE OF VERMONT



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9. Respondent answered: "I was not working when my license was expired."
10. Respondent signed the 2025 Application with the following admonitions and certifications in the "Attestation" section:

Caution to Applicant

A false statement on this application may constitute unprofessional conduct and may be a basis for denial of a license application or discipline of a license, to include revocation. 3 V.S.A. § 129a. A person who declares, certifies, or verifies in a signed writing that a statement is true and is made under the pains and penalties of perjury, and who willfully makes a false statement in the declaration, certification, or verification, shall be guilty of perjury, a crime punishable by imprisonment not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than \$10,000.00, or both. 13 V.S.A. § 2901 & 2904(b).

Certification of Identity

In the case of an application for individual licensure, I am the person in whose name this application is completed; or

In the case of a corporate applicant, I am an authorized officer of the applicant corporation, having executive authority to complete this application and personal knowledge of and accountability for the representations herein.

Certification of Accuracy

I understand that submission of this application represents that I have understood each question, that I have been candid and disclosed all relevant information, and that I have answered each question from sound personal knowledge, not a hunch, guess, or supposition. I understand that any failure to provide accurate information could result in a preliminary denial of my application or as a basis for unprofessional conduct charges against my license.

Certification of Truthfulness

I hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the answers, entries, and representations herein are true and accurate.

11. On May 15, 2025, Respondent submitted, as part of her 2025 Application, a Penalty Waiver Request for her late license renewal (Waiver Request).
12. As part of the Waiver Request, Respondent was asked: "After your license expired, did you cease to hold yourself out as a licensed professional in Vermont? (Stopped advertising, closed office, and no longer practiced.)"
13. Respondent answered "Yes."
14. As part of the Waiver Request, Respondent was asked: "Please explain the exceptional circumstances or extreme hardship."
15. Respondent answered, in relevant part: "I had not been working since it

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expired.”

16. Respondent signed the Waiver Request with the same admonitions and certifications in the “Attestation” section as contained in the 2025 Application and as provided in paragraph 11.
17. Based on the representations Respondent made in the 2025 Application and the Waiver Request, OPR renewed Respondent’s RN license and refunded her application payment, on May 21, 2025.

Violation One: 26 V.S.A. § 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(1): Making or causing to be made a false, fraudulent, or forged statement or representation in procuring or attempting to procure registration or renew a license.

18. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 17 above.
19. Paragraphs 2 through 17 demonstrate that Respondent made or caused to be made a false or fraudulent statement or representation in renewing a license when Respondent stated on her 2025 Application and on her Waiver Request that she had not practiced with an expired license when she had worked four shifts as an RN at a Nursing Home when her license was expired.
20. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 26 V.S.A. § 26 V.S.A. § 1582(a)(1).

Violation Two: 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(3): Failing to comply with provisions of federal or State statutes or rules governing the practice of the profession.

21. The State re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 2 through 17 above.
22. As a RN, Respondent was required to comply with provisions of State statutes governing the practice of the profession.
23. 26 V.S.A. § 1584(a)(3) prohibits anyone from “practice nursing unless duly registered and currently licensed to do so under the provisions of this chapter.”
24. Paragraphs 2 through 17 demonstrate that Respondent failed to comply with provisions of State Statute when Respondent practiced nursing by working four shifts as an RN at a Nursing Home when her license was expired.
25. The act(s), omission(s), and/or circumstance(s) described above constitute grounds for discipline because Respondent committed unprofessional conduct in violation of 3 V.S.A. § 129a(a)(3).

Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, the State of Vermont respectfully requests that the Board revoke,

STATE OF VERMONT



suspend, condition, or otherwise discipline Respondent's RN license.

DATED February 2, 2026

STATE OF VERMONT
SECRETARY OF STATE

By: *Zoe Newman*
Zoe Newman
Prosecuting Attorney
Zoe.newman@vermont.gov

STATE OF VERMONT



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