

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

In re:	KEITH ALLEN
Docket No.	2026-6
VT License No.	026.0108352
FL Multistate License No.	RN 9548655
Appearances:	Prosecutor: George Hasselback, Esq. Respondent: Did not appear
Hearing Officer:	Patricia Gabel, Esq.

DEFAULT ORDER

The Administrative Law Officer, serving as the Hearing Officer for the Board, held a hearing in the above matter electronically via the Microsoft Teams Meeting platform on May 19, 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 [the "Board"] pursuant to 26 V.S.A. 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/or 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 March 17, 2026, alleging engagement in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public, constituting unprofessional conduct. More particularly, the Specification of Charges alleged, in part, as follows:
 - A. Respondent holds an expired Vermont license to practice as an RN under license number 026.0108532.
 - B. Respondent holds a suspended Florida multi-state license under license number RN9548655.
 - C. On or about February 2, 2025, Respondent exchanged digital video files with a minor via a chat application called "Telegram."
 - D. Respondent received eighteen (18) videos from the minor that contained



Child Sexual Abuse Material.

- E. Respondent transmitted four (4) videos to the minor that contained Child Sexual Abuse Material.
 - F. On or about June 2, 2025, Respondent was arrested pursuant to a federal arrest warrant related to these actions.
 - G. On or about June 12, 2025, Respondent was ordered to be detained pending further hearings as a danger to the public.
 - H. On or about June 24, 2025, Respondent was charged by indictment with various violations of federal criminal law related to these actions.
 - I. On or about July 2, 2025, Respondent was arraigned on the aforementioned charges and entered a plea of "not guilty" to all of them.
 - J. On or about February 13, 2026, the Board suspended Respondent's license pending a hearing on the merits of this matter.
 - K. As of March 17, 2026, Respondent remained in federal custody in Arizona.
2. On March 17, 2026, a Notice of Charges was sent to Respondent by certified mail, first-class mail, and email.
 3. The addresses used by the Docket Clerk as Respondent's addresses were those set forth in the Office of Professional Regulation ["OPR"] licensing system.
 4. A signed green receipt associated with the certified mail notice was returned to the Docket Clerk. The signature on the receipt was a scribble and not discernable as the signature of the Respondent. The first-class mail envelope was returned undelivered, with a notation "unable to forward". The email did not bounce back as undelivered.
 5. No answer has been filed, and Respondent has not provided any communication of good cause for failure to answer.
 6. At the time proceedings were commenced to suspend Respondent's license, the Prosecuting Attorney was contacted by an attorney who did not represent Respondent in the OPR Administrative proceedings but did represent him with respect to the criminal charges pending in federal court. During that conversation, the attorney offered to pass on information to Respondent regarding the OPR Administrative case and Respondent's obligation to respond to it. The Prosecuting Attorney did not receive any further communication from or on behalf of Respondent, either at the summary suspension stage, the time for Answering the Specification of Charge, or the time following the Motion for Default.
 7. The Hearing Officer of the Board finds 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 April 27, 2026, the Prosecutor filed a Motion for Default.

10. On April 27, 2026, the Docket Clerk sent a Notice of Hearing for Default Judgment to the Respondent at the same addresses to which the Specification of Charges were sent. This Notice advised Respondent of the upcoming default hearing to find him 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 envelope nor email notices were returned as undeliverable.
11. The Hearing Officer of the Board finds service of the Notice of Hearing for Default Judgment to be proper.
12. On April 27, 2026, the Prosecution filed the State's Sanction Recommendation in this case, recommending immediate revocation of the Respondent's license. In support of the State's recommendation, the Prosecutor noted that revocation is the most severe penalty available in cases such as these. The recommendation took into account the egregious nature of the alleged behavior, which involved the knowing exchange of Child Sexual Abuse Material on multiple occasions with someone Respondent allegedly knew to be a child, and the significant position of public trust licensed registered nurses occupy, as they are frequently in contact, sometimes one-on-one, with children. During the hearing, the Prosecutor made an oral motion to amend the sanction request to include imposition of the disciplinary action surcharge in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).
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 representations, and by taking official notice of the OPR 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. The Specification of Charges filed on March 17, 2026, is incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein.
16. The Hearing Officer of the Board specifically finds that Respondent engaged in conduct of a character likely to harm the public when he exchanged video files that contained Child Sex Abuse Material with a minor child over an online chat application.
17. The Hearing Officer of the Board finds 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 the testimony of the Docket Clerk, Julie Bowen; the Prosecutor's presentation and representations; and having taken official notice of the files of OPR and the Board. 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 conduct alleged in the Specification of Charges, which is incorporated into this Proposed Order by reference.

26 V.S.A. Sec. 1582 (a)(3) provides that the Board may discipline a licensee if the person engages in the following conduct: engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public.

3 V.S.A. Sec. 129a (28) provides that, in addition to any other provision of law, the following conduct by a licensee constitutes unprofessional conduct: engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public

The Board may find that Respondent committed the following violations:

26 V.S.A. Sec. 1582(a)(3): engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public. By engaging in conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public in violation of 26 V.S.A. Sec. 1582(a)(3) and 3 V.S.A. Sec. 129a, Respondent committed unprofessional conduct

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 ORDER that:

1. The Respondent's license is immediately **REVOKED**.
2. Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. Sec. 125(b)(11) and 3 V.S.A. Sec 129(a)(3), 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/credential.

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 ^{6/15/2026}~~6/15/2026~~ day of June, 2026.

Signed by:
Patricia Gabel
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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 7/13/26.
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.

☒ 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

Signed by:
By: William James Floyd III Date: 7/20/2026 , 2026
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Vermont Board of Nursing

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DATE OF ENTRY: 7/20/26

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.