## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION

IN THE MATTER OF:	
TITUS OKECHUKWU, HHA, CNA,	
Respondent.	

## NOTICE OF SUMMARY ACTION TO SUSPEND CERTIFICATION

To: Titus Okechukwu, HHA, CNA

In accordance with the provisions of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, D.C. Code § 2–509; the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Code § 3–1205.15(a); and 17 DCMR § 4118, the District of Columbia Department of Health (D.C. Health) gives you notice of the summary suspension of your home health aide (HHA) certification, HHA11457, and your certified nurse aide (CNA) certification, NA0000800181, under D.C. Code § 3–1205.15(a).

Your certification is **summarily suspended** effective **immediately** upon receipt of this notice. If you wish to appeal this summary suspension of your certification, you must file a request for a hearing within 72 hours after service of this notice. Should you request a hearing, one will be held within 72 hours of receipt of a timely request, and a decision will be rendered within 72 hours after the close of the hearing. The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to Panravee Vongjaroenrat, Assistant General Counsel, D.C. Health. The request may be submitted by email to Panravee.Vongjaroenrat@dc.gov or by mail to 899 North Capitol Street, N.E., Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20002. Ms. Vongjaroenrat can be reached at (202) 478-5746.

The District of Columbia (the District) is represented by the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. A copy of your hearing request and any pleading or other written communication addressed to D.C. Health must also be delivered to Shani C. Brown, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Civil Enforcement Section, 400 Sixth Street, N.W., Suite 10100, Washington, D.C. 20001. AAG Brown can be reached at (202) 724-6606 or by email at Shani.Brown1@dc.gov.

You may appear personally at the hearing, and you may be represented by legal counsel. You have the right to produce witnesses and evidence, to cross-examine witnesses against you, to examine evidence produced, and to have subpoenas issued to require the production of witnesses and evidence.

All hearings are conducted in the English language. If you or any witnesses to be called are deaf, have a hearing impediment, or cannot readily understand or communicate the spoken English language, an application may be made to the Administrative Law Judge for the appointment of a qualified interpreter.

A request for a hearing will not stay the suspension of your certification.

The charge upon which the summary suspension is based is set forth below.

## Charge:

You have been charged with an offense that occurred during the course of your employment, and your conduct supporting the charge presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public, for which D.C. Health can summarily suspended your certification under D.C. Code § 3–1205.15(a)(1)(D).

On August 25, 1997, you obtained a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) certificate, NA0000800181, which is valid until October 31, 2023. You then obtained a Home Health Aide (HHA) certificate, HHA11457, on August 15, 2015, which expires on October 30, 2023.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) arrested you and charged you with second degree sexual abuse of a patient or client in violation of D.C. Code § 22–3016(a)(1). The arrest warrant alleges that between December 26 and December 27, 2022, you kissed your patient on the mouth with a mask on, kissed or sucked her breast, and felt her legs, breast, and private parts while working as a patient care technician at Bridgepoint Hospital. MPD collected DNA samples from you and your patient. According to the warrant, "[a]ssuming a mixture of two individuals, the mixture of DNA profile obtained [from your patient's Breast/Nipple Swab] is at least 98 septillion times more likely to be observed if it originated from [you and your patient], than if from [your patient] and one unknown, unrelated individual."

Further investigation revealed that between 1996 and 2006, you were arrested and accused of sexual assaults and other similar acts at nursing homes and rehabilitation centers in Prince George's County and Anne Arundel County in Maryland.

Additionally, you are subject to a stay away order prohibiting you from nursing facilities, medical centers, and hospitals unless you require medical attention.

There is sufficient evidence that you sexually assaulted your patient, including by having contact with your patient's breast, and that you engaged in sexual misconduct in the past. And because the nature of your HHA and CNA certifications allow you to work outside of healthcare facilities where patients are likely to be more vulnerable and there is less oversight, you present an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public and the District.

A request for a hearing will not stay this summary suspension. Please note that under 17 DCMR § 4103.2, your failure to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, either in person or through counsel, or both, will not preclude the administrative law judge's proceeding in this matter.

ARIAN R. GIBSON, M.S.

Senior Deputy Director

Department of Health

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration