

Health Regulation and Licensing Administration

February 22, 2023

RE: Operation Nightingale

Dear Stakeholders,

On January 25, 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced its initiation of the prosecution of individuals involved in a scheme selling false and fraudulent nursing diplomas. The charges stemmed from an extensive investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) called Operation Nightingale. A total of 25 individuals were charged. All the nursing programs have been closed.

It is important to note that the education programs involved in the FBI's investigation began its operation legitimately and do have some legitimate graduates. The transcripts and diplomas provided to individuals who did not attend or successfully complete the program may look just like those issued to legitimate graduates. This obviously creates significant challenges and requires thorough investigation and due diligence of processes. Each nursing regulatory body in all affected states have been investigating individual cases and are taking appropriate action, in accordance with their state laws and due process.

The Department of Health (DC Health) and the Board of Nursing are working to identify licensees who did not have legitimate education and stop them from practicing.

As the legal process moves forward to address individuals with fraudulent diplomas, it is important to note that the law only permits disclosure of specific individuals or information after due process has been satisfied and the contemplated action has been final. DC Health will make information available as the law permits.

DC Health highly values public safety. We will aggressively pursue individuals who are not qualified to practice and should be removed from any role in patient care. For up-to-date information about individuals who have a suspended DC Professional Nursing license, please see this BON website: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/1459936>