

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT
2000 Drayton Drive,
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0950
Telephone No. (850) 488-6151

February 26, 2026

Alexis B. Lawler, RN,
Petitioner(s)

Case 1D2026-0473
L.T. No.: 2026-09960

v.

State of Florida, Department of
Health,

Respondent(s).

BY ORDER OF THE COURT:

Respondent Florida Department of Health filed an emergency order on January 28, 2026, suspending the nursing license of Petitioner Alexis Lawler. On February 19, 2026, Petitioner filed a petition in this court to review the emergency order of suspension and filed an expedited¹ motion for stay of emergency order of suspension pending review, pursuant to section 120.68(3), Florida Statutes.

Under section 120.68(3), the Court may deny a stay, grant a stay, or grant a stay upon such conditions as are reasonable. Petitioner seeks a stay as a matter of right, but argues in the alternative that the emergency suspension is overbroad because it not only suspends her from patient care but also from licensed activity such as education, managed care case review, and records and claims auditing. Respondent asks the Court to deny the stay, but argues in the alternative that any stay should be conditioned on

¹ Although Petitioner seeks relief from this Court on an emergency basis, it does not appear that she has made any effort to expedite the proceedings before the Board of Nursing.

Petitioner only working in an administrative capacity not involving contact with or care for patients.

The documents before the Court reflect that Petitioner has been terminated from the position she held at the time the facts giving rise to the suspension occurred. Having considered the arguments from the parties, Petitioner's Motion for Stay of Emergency Order of Suspension is granted in part. The emergency order of suspension is stayed under the conditions that Petitioner may practice nursing only in administrative roles that would require no patient contact, such as education, managed care case review, and records and claims auditing.

Respondent shall file a response to the Petition for Review of Order of Emergency Suspension of License on or before March 16, 2026. Petitioner may reply to the response on or before March 23, 2026.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above order is issued at the Court's direction.

Served:

Julie Gallagher

DOH General Counsel

Jason Brent Gonzalez

Joseph Ladapo

Samuel Joseph Salario, Jr.

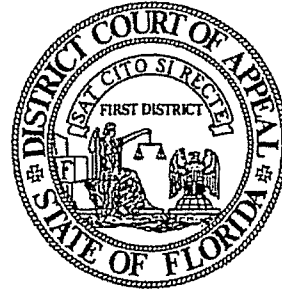
Anthony Jose Sirven

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Kristina Samuels, Clerk
1D2026-0473 February 26, 2026



Final Order No. DOH-26-0178-~~ESD~~-MQA
FILED DATE JAN 28 2026
Department of Health
By: [Signature]
Deputy Agency Clerk

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re: Emergency Suspension of the License of
Alexis Backer Lawler, R.N.
License Number: RN 9386314
Case Number: 2026-09960

ORDER OF EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF LICENSE

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency suspension of the license of Alexis Backer Lawler, R.N., ("Lawler") to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Florida. Lawler holds license number RN 9386314. Lawler address of record is 10622 Pebble Cove Lane, Boca Raton, Florida 33498. The following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law support the emergency suspension of Lawler's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Florida.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department of Health (the "Department") is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of nursing pursuant to chapters 20, 456, and 464, Florida Statutes. Section 456.073(8), Florida Statutes, authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend Lawler's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Florida, in accordance with section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes.

2. At all times material to this Order, Lawler was licensed in the State of Florida to practice as a registered nurse, license number RN 9386314, pursuant to chapter 464.

3. At all times material to this Order, Lawler was employed at Baptist Health Boca Raton Regional Hospital ("Baptist Health") in Boca Raton, Florida.

4. On or about January 22, 2026, Respondent posted a video to her TikTok account stating:

As a labor and delivery nurse, it gives me great joy to wish Karoline Leavitt a fourth-degree tear. I hope that you fucking rip from bow to stern and never shit normally again, you cunt.

5. This TikTok video went viral, receiving millions of views.

6. Respondent's TikTok account page advertised that she worked at Baptist Health.

7. Respondent knew or should have known that a patient of Baptist Health could have viewed Respondent's video on TikTok.

8. On or about January 23, 2026, after millions of views of her TikTok, Lawler posted on her Facebook page:

You know you've done a good job when the MAGA trolls and various other ignoramus are calling your place of employment to report you! Such little snowflakes.

9. In the course of their practice, registered nurses are responsible for administering treatment and medications to ill, injured, or infirm patients. Due to the nature of the practice, registered nurses are in contact with vulnerable patients and must be able to provide appropriate care and treatment. Registered nurses must be able to provide treatment to all patients regardless of who the patient may be and regardless of the patient's political beliefs. Registered nurses are placed in a position of trust; therefore, registered nurses must possess good judgment and good moral character.

10. Lawler's personal hatred and sincere hope for harm of a vile and graphic nature to a pregnant woman shows that Lawler has little regard for the safety and well-being of others, including her patients, lacks good judgment, and is not capable of caring for patients in a manner that is effective and safe. Therefore, Lawler's continued practice as a registered nurse presents an immediate, serious danger to the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

11. Additionally, Lawler's statements had an immediate negative effect. Her statements undermine her ability to provide quality medical care because they make it less likely for patients to seek care from her or Baptist Health out of fear of being mistreated. Furthermore, her statements could also reasonably cause

patients to withhold medically relevant information out of concern that they would be mistreated if they somehow offended her.

12. Lawler's continued defense of her hateful and violent post directed toward a pregnant woman, without regard for whether a Baptist Health patient could view her post, shows Lawler's behavior is likely to continue.

13. The Department considered various restrictions on Lawler's license, including restricting Lawler from practicing within her specialty, labor and delivery. The Department determine, however, that this restriction would be insufficient. Lawler's comments show her reckless disregard for the safety and life of another demonstrating that the risk of her continued practice goes beyond her area of specialty, labor and delivery.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State Surgeon General concludes as follows:

1. The State Surgeon General has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 20.43, Florida Statutes, and chapters 456 and 464 as set forth above.
2. Section 464.018(1)(h), Florida Statute, authorizes discipline, including suspension, for engaging in unprofessional conduct, as defined by board rule.

3. Rule 64B9-8.005(14), Florida Administrative Code, defines unprofessional conduct to include "[u]sing abusive, threatening or foul language in front of a patient or directing such language toward a patient."

4. By posting a TikTok video using abusive, threatening, and foul language which she knew or should have known could be viewed by a patient of Baptist Health, Lawler engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined in Rule 64B9-8.005(14) and thus violated section 464.018(1)(h).

5. Section 120.60(6) authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend a registered nurse's license upon a finding that the registered nurse presents an immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

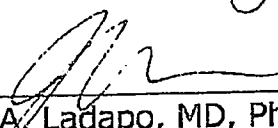
6. Lawler's continued practice of nursing constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the State of Florida, and this summary procedure is fair under the circumstances to adequately protect the public.

WHEREFORE, in accordance with section 120.60(6), it is **ORDERED**
THAT:

1. The license of Alexis Backer Lawler, R.N., to practice as a registered nurse, license number RN 9386314, is immediately suspended.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the license of Lawler to practice nursing in the State of Florida will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with sections 120.569 and 120.60(6), Florida Statutes.

DONE and ORDERED this 28 day of January, 2026.



Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes, this Order shall be judicially reviewable. Review proceedings are governed by Rule 9.100, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing a Petition for Review, accompanied by a filing fee prescribed by law, with the District Court of Appeal and providing a copy of that Petition to the Department of Health Agency Clerk within 30 days of the date this Order is filed.