

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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BEFORE THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**NUMBER: 06-A-010
IN THE MATTER OF:**

**RASHAWN L. LELAND
(Applying for Licensure)**

OPINION AND RULING

Applicant, Rashawn L. Leland, is applying for licensure as a Certified Respiratory Therapist. After receiving notice of the Board's intent to deny her application, she requested a hearing, which was held before a panel of the Board consisting of Drs. Gage-White, Dawson, Amusa, and LeBlanc, President, presiding.

The record before us reveals that Ms. Leland was found guilty of felony theft by a jury in state court, and was sentenced to five years probation, commencing March 26, 2002, and to make restitution in the amount of \$28, 247.00. On February 12, 2003, she pled guilty in Federal Court to possession of forged securities of the State of Louisiana, and on May 14, 2003, was sentenced to five years probation, and to make restitution in the amount of \$3,482.00. She remains on probation in both the State and Federal systems.

By way of mitigation, Applicant testified that all of the crimes to which she was

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found, or pled, guilty were done at the instigation or under the influence of her former boy friend, a drug addict. She also detailed many other vicissitudes through which she has suffered during her life. She testified that she is now married, in a stable relationship, and wants an opportunity to redeem herself, and make a good life for herself and her family.

We believe that Ms. Leland is sincere in her representations, and we find her to be technically qualified for licensure. However, she has, in the past, demonstrated that she is easily led into criminal conduct. It is our opinion that too little time has passed since the onset of her probations for us to be convinced that she will no longer be susceptible to outside influences which might lead her astray. We feel that she should successfully complete her periods of probation before we might give favorable consideration to her application for licensure.

The application of Rashawn L. Leland for a license as a Certified Respiratory Therapist is therefore **DENIED**. She may reapply when she has successfully completed both of the probationary periods to which she has been sentenced.

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, this 20th day of September, 2006.

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BY: KIM EDWARD LEBLANC, M.D., Ph.D., PRESIDENT