



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR LPN LICENSE APPLICANTS
WHO GRADUATED FROM STONE ACADEMY ON OR AFTER
NOVEMBER 1, 2021**



When the Department of Public Health (DPH) issues a professional license, that license serves as proof to employers and to the public that the person holding the license has met all the standards required by state law and regulation to practice competently and safely in each license category.

A recent state review of Stone Academy's Practical Nurse (PN) program revealed several educational concerns that call into question whether recent graduates from Stone Academy received the learning and training experiences required to practice successfully as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). The most serious concern appears to involve the lack of supervised direct clinical care experiences. Without adequate clinical preparation, recent Stone Academy graduates may not be prepared to care successfully for patients.

To address this issue, DPH will be sponsoring a free training refresher course for all LPN license applicants who graduated from Stone Academy on or after November 1, 2021, and who qualify to receive the LPN license because they have passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). To receive the sponsorship, these applicants must sign a stipulated agreement with DPH which will limit the use of their LPN license until the refresher course is completed.

All LPN license applicants who graduated from Stone Academy on or after November 1, 2021, should read the following questions and answers carefully.

1. I GRADUATED FROM STONE ACADEMY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2021, AND I JUST PASSED THE NCLEX. WILL DPH ISSUE ME AN LPN LICENSE?

Yes, DPH is required by law to issue an LPN license to applicants after they have passed the NCLEX. However, given the issues with the Stone Academy program, DPH will be asking all such applicants to enter into a stipulated agreement with the Department under which the new licensee will agree to take an LPN refresher course.

2. WHAT IS A STIPULATED AGREEMENT?

The stipulated agreement is a document signed by the applicant and the Department of Public Health in which the applicant agrees to limit the use of their LPN license until they complete the refresher course, and the Department agrees to sponsor the course (i.e., pay for it) and issue an unrestricted license to the applicant once the course is satisfactorily completed.

3. HOW LONG IS THE REFRESHER COURSE? WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

The Refresher Course will include two program components: an 8 hour in-person skills review and 5 days (40 hours) of clinical experience. The skill review will focus on topics including, but not limited to, airway management, bowel elimination (enemas), comprehensive head to toe evaluation of an adult, enteral tube feeding, surgical asepsis, medication administration, urinary catheter care, and wound care. The clinical program will be held in various clinical facilities across the state and will require participants to perform hands-on care with patients.

4. DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE COURSE?

No, the refresher course will be offered at no charge to eligible applicants for licensure. An eligible applicant is a person who graduated from Stone Academy on or after November 1, 2021, applied to DPH for an LPN license, and has passed the NCLEX.

5. CAN I WORK AS AN LPN WHILE I TAKE THE REFRESHER COURSE?

No, under the stipulated agreement, DPH will issue you an LPN license for the purpose of taking the course. Once you successfully complete the course, DPH will remove the restriction from your license. If you currently work in healthcare under a different license or certification (for example, you are a Certified Nurse's Aide), you may continue to do so, but you cannot perform the work of an LPN until you successfully complete the refresher course.

6. DO I HAVE TO SIGN THE STIPULATED AGREEMENT AND TAKE THE COURSE TO RECEIVE AN UNRESTRICTED LICENSE?

No, the stipulated agreement and refresher course are voluntary. However, we strongly encourage you to sign the stipulated agreement and take the refresher course. By completing the refresher course, you will gain confidence in your preparation to work as an LPN and demonstrate your clinical competence to employers throughout the state, many of whom are aware of the issues related to Stone Academy and may be reluctant to hire you without such additional training, especially the clinical experiences.

7. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T WANT TO SIGN THE STIPULATED AGREEMENT AND TAKE THE COURSE?

DPH will issue an LPN license to recent Stone Academy graduates who pass the NCLEX. HOWEVER, given the concern that the Stone Academy program may have failed to provide you with the learning and training experiences required to become licensed as a practical nurse, DPH may open an investigation into your preparation and may take disciplinary action against your license if the investigation reveals that you did not receive the preparation required by state law and regulation. Such disciplinary action could result in the loss of your license and would be reported to the National Practitioner Databank.

8. IF I SIGN THE STIPULATED AGREEMENT, WILL THIS BE ON MY RECORD AS DISCIPLINE AGAINST MY LICENSE?

No, the stipulated agreement will not be considered discipline. Once you have successfully completed the refresher course, the Department will notify you in writing that the restriction on your license has been removed. You will then be able to practice in confidence with an unrestricted license.

9. I GRADUATED FROM STONE ACADEMY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2021, AND I HAVE APPLIED FOR MY LPN LICENSE BUT HAVEN'T TAKEN THE TEST YET. WILL I BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THE NCLEX? DO I HAVE TO SIGN A STIPULATED AGREEMENT TOO?

You will be allowed to take the NCLEX once you apply to DPH for an LPN license and the Department receives an official copy of your transcripts indicating that you graduated. You will not be asked to sign a stipulated agreement and take the refresher course until you pass the NCLEX and qualify for the LPN license.

10. WHY IS DPH FOCUSED ONLY ON PEOPLE WHO GRADUATED FROM STONE ACADEMY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2021?

The Board of Examiners for Nursing last reviewed the Stone Academy LPN program in 2021 and gave final approval for the program in October 2021. The issues with Stone Academy's program appear to have developed after that date, so the state is seeking to ensure that students who graduated after the program was last approved have an opportunity to receive additional clinical training.

11. I KNOW SOMEONE WHO ALSO GRADUATED FROM STONE ACADEMY ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2021, AND ALREADY HAS THEIR LPN LICENSE. WILL THEY BE REQUIRED TO SIGN THE STIPULATED AGREEMENT AND TAKE THE REFRESHER COURSE TOO?

No, people who graduated from Stone Academy's Licensed Practical Nurse program on or after November 1, 2021, and have already been licensed as a practical nurse by the Connecticut Department of Health will not be required to sign a stipulated agreement; however they will be offered the opportunity to attend an 8-hour skills refresher course reviewing topics including, but not limited to, airway management, bowel elimination (enemas), comprehensive head to toe evaluation of an adult, enteral tube feeding, surgical asepsis, medication administration, urinary catheter care, and wound care. The experience is voluntary and will be offered by the state free of charge for licensees who sign up for the program prior to their next license renewal date.

12. HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STIPULATED AGREEMENT AND THE REFRESHER COURSE?

Please email StoneAcademyGrads.DPH@ct.gov and include your contact information as well as the best time to reach you. A member of the DPH staff will contact you within 24 hours during the business week or, if you submit a question on a Friday, no later than the close of business the following Monday. DPH staff will review with you the stipulated agreement and the process for accessing the refresher course and address any other questions you have.