

# FRAUD ALERT

It has come to our attention that as recently as Friday, April 19, 2024, a long-time con artist named Belinda Brown has once again attempted to gain employment as a dietitian in long-term care, using the fraudulent claim that she is a Certified Dietary Manager as well as a Registered Dietitian. In this most recent case, she did not present a fraudulent license number from the NCBDN. When asked for her RD number, this person was unable to produce a valid number, claiming she has been working so long that her identification is all “on paper” and couldn’t be found online. In this case, the hiring manager remembered our fraud alert in 2014 and disengaged in communications with Ms. Brown, and reported the incident to our office.

Aliases Ms. Brown has used in the past include Belinda Diane Brown, Audrey Brown, Colleen B. Kristbaum (a stolen identity), Belinda Hutchins Brown, Aubrey Brown, Nora Brown, and Belinda Brown McGill. She is known to live in the West End, NC and Pinehurst, NC area, but does not seem to limit herself to Moore County. We have known her to apply and even be hired into positions within long-term care settings, consulting, and dialysis centers. She possesses multiple social-security numbers, and thus it is not sufficient for an employer to run a criminal background check based on the social-security number provided.

As recently as February 2024, Ms. Brown was charged with fraud in Moore county, and our office has reached out to the Moore County Sheriff’s office to ensure they were aware she is actively still pursuing fraudulent employment in the dietetics field. Here is the most recent news story: <https://sandhillssentinel.com/sheriff-announces-arrest-in-fraud-investigation/> She is also being prosecuted in Wake county, and this office has been in contact with the Assistant District Attorney in that matter.

It is vital that employers do their due diligence when hiring new employees. In order to safely protect the public, following are some helpful tips that all employers should employ when reviewing the qualifications of a potential new hire:

## **Helpful reminders for employers and licensees regarding credentials:**

- Employers should ensure that a valid government issued ID matches the Registered Dietitian verification and the license verification. RD’s can be verified through CDR here: [secure.eatright.org/v14pgm/lib/prd/cdrvfy001?spage=ICRED](https://secure.eatright.org/v14pgm/lib/prd/cdrvfy001?spage=ICRED)
- To verify a license to practice in North Carolina, employers should utilize the NCBDN’s online verification tool. Any question of validity should be brought to the attention of the Board. The online verification page can be accessed here: <https://gateway.ncbdn.org/verification/search.aspx>