



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

DEBORAH EPSTEIN, R.N.
License # 26NO11075400

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about December 22, 2011, Respondent was requested to submit documentation to the Board of all continuing education completed between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2010.
3. In a communication dated January 22, 2012, Respondent indicated that she was unable to provide documentation of continuing education completed during that time period.

4. Respondent was required, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, to have completed a minimum of thirty (30) hours of nursing continuing education by May 31, 2010, the end of the period for renewal of her nursing license, and to retain documentation of this continuing education for at least four years.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to demonstrate timely completion of her continuing education obligation for the June 1, 2008 - May 31, 2010 renewal period constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on March 16, 2012. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry, unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions of law should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent timely responded to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing documentation of continuing education totaling 44.95 credit hours. Thirty (30) of those credit hours were completed in April of 2012, and 14.95 credit hours were completed in 2011. None of the 44.95 credits were taken within the June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2010

renewal period. Respondent may apply 30 of 44.94 credit hours to satisfy the deficiency for the June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2010 renewal period and may apply 14.95 credits towards the thirty hour requirement for the June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012 renewal period.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. Inasmuch as Respondent subsequently satisfied the deficiency in her continuing education hours for the June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2010, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted. However, the Board determined that Respondent's failure to timely complete her continuing education obligation for the June 1, 2008 – May 31, 2010 renewal period warrants imposition of a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 27th day of June, 2012,

ORDERED that:

1. A two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty is hereby imposed upon Respondent for failure to timely complete her continuing education obligation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be forwarded to the attention of George Hebert, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07101 within fifteen (15) days following the filing of this

Final Order of Discipline.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN*
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President