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MAY 15 2013
N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR
REVOCATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF

MERCEDES RODRIGUEZ-CACERES, C.H.H.A.
Certificate No. 26NH13683900

HOMEMAKER HOME HEALTH AIDE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

Finalized by Default on: 06/14/13

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Mercedes Rodriguez-Caceres ("Respondent") is the holder of certificate number 26NH13683900 and has been certified at all times hereto. (Exhibit A).

2. Upon receipt of a flagging notice advising that Respondent was arrested on October 17, 2012 by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office for violation of (2) Counts N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4A, Endanger Welfare of Children and (4) Counts N.J.S.A. 9:6-3, Child Abuse, the Board sent a letter of inquiry, requesting certain information and submission of documents, to Respondent's address of record in North Bergen, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about December 3, 2012. A response was due within twenty (20) days. The regular mailing was not returned; the certified mailing was returned to the Board as "unclaimed." (Exhibit B).

3. To date, Respondent has not provided a response to the Board's request for information.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, -1.3, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Respondent's failure to provide the Board with a valid address constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.7

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 15th day of May, 2013,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's certificate to practice as a homemaker-home health aide be and hereby is provisionally suspended until such time as Respondent cooperates fully with the Board's investigation by providing the Board with the information requested in the Board's letter of inquiry.

2. Respondent shall remit payment of a monetary penalty pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 in the amount of \$200.00 by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey, delivered to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Payment shall be made no later than 15 days after notice of the entry of any Final Order is served in this matter, including any Order which is finalized by default. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

3. Respondent may request a modification or dismissal of the above stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law within 30 days of the date this Provisional Order is filed by:

- a) Submitting a written request for modification or dismissal to George Hebert, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

- b) Setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed.
- c) Submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefore or offered in mitigation of penalty.

4. Any submissions will be reviewed by the Board and the Board will thereafter determine whether further proceedings are necessary. If no material discrepancies are raised through a supplemental submission during the thirty-day period, or if the Board is not persuaded that the submitted materials merit further consideration, a Final Order will be entered.

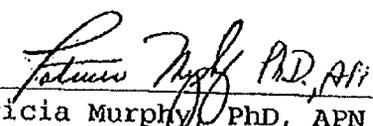
5. In the event that Respondent's submissions establish a need for further proceedings, including, but not limited to an evidentiary hearing, Respondent shall be notified with regard thereto. In the event that an evidentiary hearing is ordered, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law contained herein may serve as notice of the factual and legal allegations in such proceeding. Further, in the event a hearing is held and upon review of the record, the Board shall not be limited to the findings, conclusions and sanctions stated herein.

6. In the event that the Board receives no written request for modification or dismissal within 30 days following entry of this Provisional Order, without further Board review, all

referenced preliminary Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and all provisional sanctions or penalties imposed by this Order shall automatically become the Final Decision and Order of the Board. Thereafter, Respondent's failure to comply with any sanction or penalty imposed by this Order shall be considered a violation of a Board Order in contravention of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) and (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and may subject Respondent to additional sanction and/or penalty.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: _____


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
President