

FILED

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New Jersey Board of Nursing

JOHN J. HOFFMAN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 45029  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
Attorney for the State Board of Nursing

By: Barbara J.K. Lopez  
Deputy Attorney General  
Tel. (973) 648-7454

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
<b>HEATHER L. MELI, RN</b>	:	
<b>License No. 26NR10692800</b>	:	<b>CONSENT ORDER</b>
	:	<b>REINSTATING LICENSE</b>
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

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This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of Heather L. Meli's (Respondent's) application to reinstate her license as a Registered Professional Nurse dated January 2, 2013. Respondent's license was suspended pursuant to an Interim Consent Order filed on February 9, 2009 and she was ordered to enroll in and participate with the Recovery and Monitoring Program of the Institute for Nursing (RAMP). The 2009 Consent

Order was a result of a criminal case alleging misappropriation and misuse of prescription blanks and controlled dangerous substances.

Respondent has been participating with RAMP and RAMP has indicated that Respondent has demonstrated compliance with all requirements of the program, including daily check-ins, random urine screenings, weekly attendance at peer group meetings, and monthly reporting. RAMP supports the reinstatement of Respondent's license to practice in New Jersey.

The Board finding that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, in lieu of further proceedings, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS on this 20 day of June, 2013

**HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED that:**

1. Respondent's application to reinstate her license to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey is granted.
2. Respondent shall remain enrolled in and comply with all of the terms and conditions of participation in the RAMP program. Respondent shall cause RAMP to inform the Board in writing if Respondent is non-compliant with, or is terminated

from or resigns from further participation in the program together with the reason for and complete documentation of the non-compliance, termination and/or resignation. Notification of the Board shall be within 24 hours of determination of non-compliance, termination or resignation, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Respondent shall provide RAMP with a complete copy of the within Order.

3. Respondent shall follow the recommendations by RAMP and/or the evaluator for further treatment and/or more lengthy enrollment in RAMP. Respondent shall limit her nursing practice, if recommended by RAMP, which may include Respondent placing her license in inactive status.

4. Respondent shall provide a release to RAMP allowing RAMP to provide pertinent reports, records and other information pertaining to Respondent to the Board. Respondent's signature on this order signifies Respondent's waiver of any right to confidentiality with respect to these matters between Respondent, RAMP, and the Board, and Respondent's agreement that the Board may utilize any such reports, records and other information it receives from RAMP in any proceeding regarding Respondent's licensure and that the Board may release any

pertinent information in its possession to RAMP.

5. Respondent shall refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances except as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner who is made aware of Respondent's substance abuse history, if there is such a history. Respondent shall report any such use to RAMP in writing within five days of receiving such a prescription together with the name of the prescribing health care practitioner, the name of the drug, the quantity, frequency, expected length of use and reason for its use.

6. Respondent shall attend regular 12 step support group meetings or the equivalent, and nurse peer support group meetings, as required by RAMP. She shall attend individual counseling and psychiatric treatment until successful discharge, if required by RAMP.

7. Respondent shall submit to random observed urine testing if and as required by RAMP. Respondent's failure to submit to or provide a urine sample when requested shall be deemed to be a violation of the terms of this Order. All random alcohol and drug screens shall be negative for the presence of alcohol or drugs, unless the drugs detected by screening were

properly taken pursuant to a valid prescription from a health care practitioner aware of Respondent's substance abuse history, if applicable.

8. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs of urine screens, enrollment/participation fees associated with RAMP, and/or further treatment and monitoring, if applicable.

9. Respondent shall obey all of the laws of the State of New Jersey, the United States and their political subdivisions as well as all regulations, rules or laws pertaining to the practice of nursing in the State or jurisdiction in which she practices nursing. Respondent shall report to the Board within ten (10) days any arrest, indictment or conviction for any crime or disorderly persons offense.

10. Respondent shall remain in RAMP until successful completion of or release from the program. Until Respondent has successfully completed RAMP or been released from the program, Respondent may not modify the conditions of this agreement without submitting a written petition to the Board providing a detailed explanation of the basis for the modification request, and then entering into a new, modified agreement with the Board.

11. Any deviation from the terms of this Order without the prior written consent of the Board shall constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that Respondent has violated any term of this Order, Respondent's license may be automatically suspended by the Board. Respondent, upon notice, may request a hearing to contest the entry of such an order. At any such hearing the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent was materially false. In addition, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

*Patricia Murphy* *PhD, APRN, FAAN*

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President

I have read and understand  
the within Consent Order  
and agree to be bound by  
its terms.

*H. Meli*  
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Heather L. Meli, RN