

FILED
AUG 02 2013
N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR:
REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :
: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
Theresa L. Grassie, L.P.N. :
License # 26NP06544500 : FINAL ORDER
: OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE :
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
:

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. Theresa L. Grassie ("Respondent") is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. Upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Respondent was arrested on March 21, 2012 by the Moorestown Township Police Department for Shoplifting, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11b(1) and Possession of Controlled Dangerous ~~Substances or Analog, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), the~~ Board sent a letter of inquiry to Respondent's address of record in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about March 22, 2012. The letter requested information pertaining to the

arrest and submission of documents. The regular mailing was not returned; the certified mailing was delivered on March 28, 2012.

3. The Board received a brief letter from the Medical Director of the Recovery Institute of South Florida indicating that Respondent was admitted to the facility on April 20, 2012 and completed a program on June 22, 2012.

4. The Board provided an opportunity for Respondent to enroll in the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program of the Institute for Nursing (RAMP). Respondent failed to avail herself of that opportunity.

5. The Board re-sent the letter of inquiry to Respondent on or about July 3, 2012. The regular mail was not returned and the certified mail was signed upon delivery on July 6, 2012.

6. The Board received no response and never received answers to any of the questions that had been asked in the letters of inquiry.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's letters of inquiry constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, ~~which is deemed a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and also a~~ violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h) subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action. Additionally, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(f), Respondent's drug related arrest and admittance to the

Recovery Institute of South Florida warrants, as a condition for reinstated licensure, testing, monitoring, and evaluation to determine whether continued practice as a nurse may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on May 14, 2013, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license and imposing a \$200.00 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions 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's father replied to the Provisional Order, explaining that respondent has been struggling with an addiction ~~problem which has clouded her judgment during the past year, and~~ indicating that respondent is in agreement with the Board suspending her nursing license until she is able to comply with the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP). Respondent's

father provided a copy of some of the documents requested by the Board in its original inquiries. The Board considered this matter, and determined that additional proceedings were not necessary, as these submissions do not raise any discrepancies with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, and acknowledge respondent's failure to respond to Board inquiries. Therefore the Board determined that the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 2nd day of August, 2013,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing is hereby suspended until such time as Respondent is able to cooperate fully with the Board's investigation by providing the Board with a narrative statement and any other information not already provided, and until Respondent demonstrates that she is fit and competent to practice.

2. Respondent shall not apply for reinstatement until such time as she undergoes a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of RAMP and gains RAMP's support for reinstatement.

~~3. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars~~
(\$200) is hereby imposed upon Respondent for failure to cooperate with a Board investigation. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey, delivered

or mailed 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 the date of filing of a Final Order of Discipline. 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.

4. Upon finalization of this Order, Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent herself as a Licensed Practice Nurse until such time as her license is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Murphy Ph.D. APN
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President