

FILED  
SEP 18 2013  
N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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 LICENSE OF :  
: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION  
JILL ADDEO, LPN :  
License No. 26NP06621300 : 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. Jill Addeo ("Respondent") is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about May 22, 2013, Respondent completed and submitted an online application for biennial license renewal. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent completed the required continuing education credits for the biennial period of June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2013.

Respondent answered "Yes" to the question, and certified that answer to be true by submitting the online application.

3. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether she was working in nursing or another health-related field. Respondent answered "No" to the question and certified that answer to be true by submitting the online application.

4. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether she had been arrested since her last renewal. Respondent answered "No" to the question and certified that answer to be true by submitting the online application.

5. Respondent was the subject of a Provisional Order of Discipline filed on October 16, 2012 and a Final Order of Discipline filed on February 12, 2013, both of which were based upon Respondent's failure to cooperate with a Board investigation concerning her June 14, 2012 and August 21, 2012 arrests for Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

6. Respondent ultimately cooperated with the Board's investigation and maintained that her August 21, 2012 arrest occurred after she "had just come from getting CDS for a sick friend and wanted to do the right thing so [she] handed the drugs over to the police." The arrest report indicated that the CDS was heroin.

7. Respondent was arrested on May 15, 2013 by members of the Neptune Police Department and charged with violating N.J.S.A.

2C:35-10(a)(1) (Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance), N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2 (Possession of Drug Paraphernalia), N.J.S.A. 2C:36-6 (Possess/Distribute Hypodermic Needle), and N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2.1(b) (Loiter to Obtain/Sell Controlled Dangerous Substance in Public).

8. The Board received an anonymous complaint dated May 16, 2013 indicating that Respondent was abusing heroin, cocaine, and alcohol and that Respondent was reporting to work as a nurse in an impaired condition.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon Respondent's three drug-related arrests within the last year, along with her statement that she was "getting CDS (heroin) for a sick friend," the Board finds that Respondent is presently (within the last 365 days) engaged in drug or alcohol use that is likely to impair her ability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(1).

Respondent's three drug-related arrests and her statement that she was "getting CDS (heroin) for a sick friend," warrants testing, monitoring, and evaluation, as a condition of reinstated licensure, to evaluate whether Respondent's continued practice in nursing may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(f). Similarly, the Board finds medical or other professional treatment warranted, as a condition

of reinstated licensure, before Respondent can properly discharge nursing functions within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-22-(e).

Lastly, the Board finds that Respondent's submission of her 2013 renewal application, wherein she certified that she had not been arrested when she had in fact been arrested just one week prior to the submission of the renewal application constitutes the use or employment of dishonesty, deception, or misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) or obtaining a license through deception or misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(a).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on June 10, 2013, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license until she was able to demonstrate that she was fit and competent to practice nursing. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 replied to the Provisional Order, stating that she was working with the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), and explaining that the inaccurate information she provided on her 2013 renewal application could be explained by the fact that she had begun filling out the application before the date of her last arrest, May 15, 2013, and merely finalized the application on May 22, 2013 after the arrest had occurred. The Board noted that respondent submissions did not contradict the fact that she had been arrested three times on drug-related charges within the past year, beginning with an arrest on June 14, 2012; and that she had explained in connection with an August 21, 2012 arrest that she "had just come from getting CDS for a sick friend" which she turned over to police, although the arrest report indicated the CDS involved was heroin. Moreover, Ms. Addeo's failure to supply any documentation from RAMP as to her participation, cast doubt on the extent to which Ms. Addeo was working with RAMP. With respect to the renewal application, the Board found that under the circumstances, respondent knew or should have known that in submitting the application without indicating her recent arrest, she was providing false information to the Board. The Board therefore affirmed the findings and conclusions of the Provisional

Order, and determined that the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing is hereby suspended until such time as Respondent demonstrates that she is fit and competent.

2. Prior to any reinstatement, Respondent shall undergo a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of the Recovery and Monitoring Program of the Institute for Nursing (RAMP) and shall gain RAMP's support for reinstatement.

3. All costs associated with the evaluation and/or monitoring outlined above shall be the responsibility of, and paid directly by, Respondent.

4. Upon finalization of this Order, Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent herself as a Licensed Practical 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 PhD APN  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
President