

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



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

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
	:	
DOREEN E. WASHINGTON, R.N.	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
License #26NO09860400	:	OF LICENSE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN	:	
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Doreen E. Washington ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).
2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board on or about February 12, 2013. The agreement required, in part, that Respondent enroll in the Board's

designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program of the Institute for Nursing ("RAMP"), to undergo evaluation and monitoring, including random urine screens. The agreement, which was to remain private and confidential unless and until the Board received reliable information that Respondent had violated any term, was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. (Exhibit B).

3. On April 1, 2013, Respondent signed an agreement with RAMP for purposes of obtaining an evaluation with drug screening and monitoring. After enrollment, however, Respondent failed to participate in the program at all. (Exhibit C).

4. Respondent failed to activate the online monitoring system which requires daily check-ins and randomly schedules urine screens, failed to undergo any urine screens, failed to check-in on a daily basis, failed to attend peer support meetings, and failed to respond to efforts to redirect her towards compliance. (Exhibit C).

5. On or about June 17, 2013, a communication was sent to Respondent at her address of record by overnight and regular mail, advising Respondent that the Board had received information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement and with her agreement with RAMP.

Respondent was further advised to provide the Board with proof of any inaccuracy in that information within two weeks.

(Exhibit D).

6. Respondent replied and indicated that she had sent in the RAMP enrollment paperwork and had received assistance from RAMP in finding a state funded treatment program. Respondent thought that her participation in the state funded program would be shared with RAMP. Respondent did not dispute any other issues of non-compliance. (Exhibit E).

7. The private letter agreement signed by Respondent provided for automatic suspension of Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that Respondent had violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement states that Respondent may, upon notice to the Board, request a hearing to contest her automatic suspension; however, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent's violation of the agreement was materially false. The Board also reserved the right to bring further disciplinary action. (Exhibit B).

8. Respondent followed RAMP's recommendation to attend treatment and to limit her nursing practice by placing her

license on inactive status, but failed to otherwise participate with RAMP. Respondent's failure to participate in RAMP violates the private letter agreement and constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and automatic suspension of her license as provided in the private letter agreement.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 15th day of Nov., 2013,
HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for her violation of the terms of the private letter agreement as set forth above, which is a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, request a hearing, upon notice, on the sole issue of whether information received that Respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement was materially false.

3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without a demonstration by Respondent that she is in full compliance with

the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement and with any agreement with RAMP, in addition to a demonstration that she is fit and competent to practice.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Murphy* P.D. APRN, FAAN
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President