

**FILED**

JUL 16 2014

**N.J. BOARD OF NURSING**

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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE :  
LICENSE OF :  
:  
**CURTIS COLLAZO, L.P.N.** :  
**License # 26NP03429700** :  
:  
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE :  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :  
:

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Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE**

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. Curtis Collazo ("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 October 11, 2013, the Board sent respondent a letter of inquiry asking respondent to supply information and documentation concerning his nursing practice, continuing education, and an arrest on October 8, 2013 on charges of assault .
3. The letter of inquiry was sent to respondent's address of record with the Board by certified and regular mail. The certified mailing of the inquiry was returned as unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned. No response was received.

4. On respondent's 2013 application to renew his nursing license, respondent indicated that he would have completed all required continuing education for the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 renewal period by May 31, 2013.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to a Board inquiry constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Respondent's failure to provide documentation of required continuing education for the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 renewal period is hereby interpreted as a failure to timely complete continuing education requirements in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on his 2013 renewal application that he would have completed all required continuing education by May 31, 2013 constitutes misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand, and seven hundred fifty dollar (\$750) civil penalty was entered on February 28, 2014. Copies were served upon respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by 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 initially replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline by requesting a payment plan for the civil penalty. Respondent then sent in another letter where he again indicated that he would try to pay the fine and finish his continuing education credits. Respondent attached certificates of completion for fifteen hours of in-service training, none of which were approved or accredited as continuing education for nurses. Respondent was sent two follow-up letters in an attempt to obtain the information and documentation that was originally requested in the Board's October 2013 letter of inquiry. Respondent has failed to reply to those efforts and has failed to provide the bulk of information requested.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. Respondent was given multiple opportunities to provide the information and documentation requested and has failed to do so.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014,**

**ORDERED that:**

1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended until he has fully responded to the Board's October 11, 2013 letter of inquiry, and until he has documented completion of thirty (30) contact hours of nursing continuing education that satisfies the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3 for the 2011-2013 renewal period.

2. A public reprimand is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

3. The total civil penalty of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) is hereby imposed which includes a five hundred dollar (\$500) civil penalty for respondent's failure to cooperate with a Board investigation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, and a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty for the failure to timely complete required continuing education within the June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2013 renewal period. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order payable to "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 twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event respondent fails to make a timely and complete 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. Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent himself as a nurse until such time as his license is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

5. Continuing education hours completed after May 31, 2013 and applied to cure the deficiency of a previous period shall not be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President