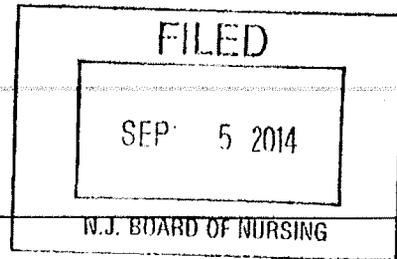


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR
REVOCATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF

Irene Sarpong, C.H.H.A.
Certificate No. 26NH10018000

HOMEMAKER HOME HEALTH AIDE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

WITHDRAWAL OF
CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of a flagging notice that Irene Sarpong, certified homemaker-home health aide ("Respondent"), had been arrested on May 17, 2013, by the Monroe Township Police for False Statement/Credit Card and Theft of Movable Property. The Board sent Respondent a letter of inquiry on or about May 22, 2013, requesting certain information and documentation. On June 5, 2013, her attorney Philip Nettle, Esq., provided a copy of the complaint, information regarding the status of the case, and Respondent's employment information.

E.L., a ninety-two year old resident of Monroe Village contacted Ted Alter, the Director of Resident Services at Monroe Village, and reported that she believed Respondent might have withdrawn \$600.00 from her bank account at TD Bank. E.L. stated that Respondent was the only person who had access to her ATM card, that she never allowed Respondent to use her card but that Respondent could have obtained the card while E.L. was distracted. E.L. also reported that the transaction occurred in the early morning hours during which time she never goes out.

Mr. Jeffrey Shinn, TD Bank Loss Prevention Agent, provided police with video footage and twenty-two clear still pictures of a woman using E.L.'s ATM card on 11 different occasions. On December 12, 2012, police showed Mr. Alter and Mr. William Sheppard, head of security at Monroe Village, the pictures and Mr. Sheppard identified the woman in the pictures as Respondent. Monroe Police received an email on January 17, 2013, informing them that TD Bank had credited E.L. \$6,800.00 for the transactions that she had not made.

Monroe Police obtained a statement from E.L. on February 1, 2013. E.L. stated that she had noticed charges on her bank statement that she had not made. E.L. alleged that the charges could have been made by Respondent because Respondent had assisted E.L. retrieve her ATM card from her wallet.

Additionally, E.L. stated that Respondent had accompanied her to the ATM and could have seen E.L. input her PIN number. E.L. stated that she had not asked Respondent to go to the ATM or the store for her. E.L. was then shown the still pictures, provided by TD Bank, and E.L. identified Respondent in each picture.

An arrest warrant was issued for Respondent on May 16, 2013, for fraudulent use of a credit card and theft of \$6,800.00. Respondent turned herself in on May 17, 2013. On August 23, 2013, Respondent was interviewed by a police officer, and reported that she attended to the daily living needs of E.L. including shopping, driving, grocery shopping, doctor's appointments, and E.L.'s banking. Respondent stated that E.L. was not with her most of the time when she was doing the banking, but that E.L. had given her the debit card and her PIN number, in order for Respondent to do her banking. Respondent stated that transactions were done with E.L.'s permission.

On February 19, 2014, Respondent enrolled in a Pre-trial Intervention Program ("PTI") in Middlesex County to run for thirty-six months (PTI). The PTI provides for full restitution of \$6800.00, requires Respondent to report the status of her enrollment in any application to the Board and provides that the charges against Respondent will be dismissed if she complies with PTI.

The facts underlying Respondent's arrest, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in the use of dishonesty, fraud, deception and misrepresentation, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45-1:21(b), professional or occupational misconduct, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and committed an act constituting a crime of moral turpitude and one which relates adversely to homemaker-home health aide practice in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).

Since the filing of the Consent Order, Respondent has passed away. Accordingly, the Board determined that the Consent Order should be withdrawn.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 5th day of August, 2014,

ORDERED that:

1. The Consent Order filed on or about May 15, 2014, is hereby withdrawn.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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