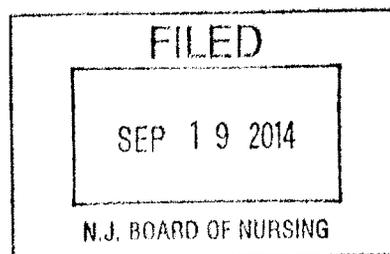


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR :
REVOCATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF :
 :
MARIA PACAS, C.H.H.A. : ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
Certificate No. 26NH14921800 :
 : CONSENT ORDER
 :
 :
TO PRACTICE AS A HOMEMAKER HOME :
HEALTH AID IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY: :

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating that Maria Pacas, C.H.H.A. ("Respondent") was arrested on August 6, 2014 by the Creskill Police Department for one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-7, Endanger Incompetent Person, and one (1) count of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-8, Neglect/Abandonment of an Elderly Person/Disabled Adult. Specifically, Respondent was arrested for being intoxicated while providing home health aide services to a patient with dementia. Respondent admitted in a statement to her employer, Unicity Eldercare, that she served herself an alcoholic drink in a glass and

drank it fast and blanked out. A statement from another employee, the Lead Care Manager who was present in Sunrise Senior Living, the facility where the incident took place, confirmed that Respondent was walking very unsteadily, was unable to say what had happened, hit herself in the face and hit other personnel on August 6, 2014 while on duty at the facility. Respondent's employment was terminated.

The Board finds that Respondent's conduct constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e). The parties having agreed to the resolution of this matter without further formal proceedings, and Respondent having agreed and given her voluntary consent to the within Order, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and other good cause having been shown;

IT IS on this 19th day of September, 2014,

ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is hereby granted leave and shall immediately surrender her certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey for a minimum of six (6) months from the filing of this Order, and until further Order of the Board. Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, forward her homemaker-home health aide certificate, both wallet and wall versions, to Shirley P. Dickstein, DAG, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey 07101, on behalf of the Board of Nursing.

2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding herself out as a certified homemaker-home health aide and/or practicing as a homemaker-home health aide, which includes but is not limited to performing delegated nursing regimens or nursing tasks delegated through the authority of a duly licensed professional nurse.

3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey certification at any time in the future, which shall be no earlier than six (6) months from the date of this Order, Respondent shall:

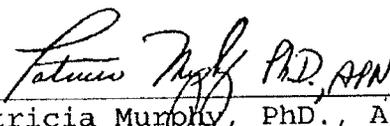
- a. Appear before the Board to discuss her readiness to reenter the practice of homemaker-home health aide.
- b. Provide the Board with evidence that she is capable of discharging the functions of a certificate holder in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that she is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of any addictive substance which could affect her practice.
- c. Provide the Board with an in-depth, current evaluation from a psychiatrist or psychologist knowledgeable in addiction therapy or a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor who is aware of this Consent Order and who has been pre-approved by the Board. Respondent shall provide documentation that she has complied with all recommendations of the psychiatrist or psychologist or licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor.
- d. Provide the Board with documentation that Respondent has refrained from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances for a period of at least six (6) months, except as prescribed by an authorized health

care practitioner who is made aware of Respondent's substance abuse history. This is to include but not be limited to complete treatment records of all diagnostic and rehabilitative therapy. In addition, Respondent shall provide reports from each and every mental health professional (including, but not limited to: psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, and therapists) who have participated in Respondent's care and/or treatment in this matter during the time from the entry of this Order to Respondent's petition for reinstatement.

- e. Provide the Board with documentation that Respondent has attended support group meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous at a frequency of not less than two meetings per week for at least one year.
- f. Affirmatively establish her fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active practice of certified homemaker-home health aide within New Jersey.
- g. Provide the Board with a full account of her conduct during the intervening period of time from the entry of this Order to her petition for reinstatement.

4. The Board reserves the right to place restrictions and/or limitations upon Respondent's certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey in the event that her certification is reinstated.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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

I have read and understand
the within Consent Order and
agree to be bound by its terms.

María G. Pacas
María Pacas