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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION : Administrative Action  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :  
 :  
 : ORDER OF SUSPENSION  
MAUREEN EHRET, R.N. : OF LICENSE  
LICENSE # NR 06064600 :  
 :  
 :  
TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED :  
NURSE (R.N.) 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. Respondent, Maureen Ehret, is the holder of License No. NR06064600 and is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey.

2. Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board which she signed on or about August 5, 2013.

(Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo

evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, ¶¶ 2, 6, and 10) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential. (Exhibit A)

3. In a communication dated August 12, 2014, RAMP's Director Suzanne Alunni-Kinkle advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with her RAMP private letter agreement and RAMP contract. RAMP had been receiving updates from the New York State monitoring program, the Professional Assistance Program (PAP), and had been advised that Ms. Ehret had been discharged from PAP because of two episodes of diversion. A letter was then sent to Ms. Ehret authorizing inactivation of her New Jersey nursing license, but the letter was not signed and returned. (Exhibit B)

4. On or about September 26, 2014, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within

five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP. (Exhibit C)

5. The overnight mailing was delivered on September 29, 2014. (Exhibit C) No written response was received.

7. A certification from RAMP's director dated October 9, 2014 indicated that Ms. Ehret's status had not changed since the August 12, 2014 communication. Ms. Ehret had not been in contact with RAMP, nor has she participated in RAMP since she was discharged from New York's PAP program, nor has she taken steps to inactive her New Jersey nursing license. (Exhibit D)

8. The private letter agreement signed by respondent, which by its terms has the force and effect of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A, ¶13)

9. Respondent's failure to authorize inactivation of her nursing license, and the conduct that led to her discharge from New York's PAP constitutes a violation of the private letter agreement.

Accordingly,

IT IS on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed 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, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.

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 respondent's demonstrating that she is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement and with any agreement with RAMP, and is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

*Patricia Murphy PhD APN*

By:

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Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C  
Board President