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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
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

WILLIAM NICHOLSON, R.N.
LICENSE #NR 15016800

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE AS A
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent had been arrested on or about August 14, 2014, and charged with

assault by auto, driving while intoxicated, and possession of a controlled dangerous substance (marijuana). Respondent acknowledges that he had been drinking alcohol on the evening of the arrest.

The Board finds that the circumstances that resulted in the automobile accident, which involved another driver and could have seriously injured both respondent and that other driver, warrant requiring respondent, as a condition of continued licensure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(f), to undergo evaluation and monitoring to verify that respondent's practice of nursing is consistent with the health and welfare of the public.

The Board finding that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, in lieu of further proceedings, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS, ON THIS ^{22nd}~~15~~ DAY OF *January*, 2015.

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP) within thirty (30) days of the filing of this order, and shall comply with all of the terms and conditions of participation in the RAMP program. Respondent shall cause RAMP to inform the Board in writing if respondent is non-compliant with, or is terminated from or resigns from further participation in the program together with the reason

for and complete documentation of the non-compliance, termination and/or resignation. Notification of the Board shall be within 24 hours of determination of non-compliance, termination or resignation, or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Respondent shall provide RAMP's Director with a complete copy of the within Order.

2. Respondent shall undergo a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation to be conducted by a qualified mental health evaluator as recommended by RAMP, if required by RAMP. The evaluator shall prepare a report which shall include an evaluation of respondent's mental health condition and substance use history (if any), and indicate whether respondent is able to safely and competently practice nursing. Said report shall include recommendations for further treatment and monitoring, if applicable, including the need for continued random screenings, or limitations of practice. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs of the comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation and all other program costs.

3. Respondent shall follow the recommendations (if any) by RAMP and/or the evaluator for further treatment, which may include inpatient or intensive outpatient treatment, and/or continuing enrollment in RAMP. Respondent shall limit his nursing practice if recommended by RAMP, which may include

placing his nursing license into inactive status and/or submitting to instructions to refrain from working as a nurse.

4. Respondent shall refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances, including alcohol, except as prescribed by an authorized health care practitioner who is made aware of respondent's substance abuse history, if applicable. Respondent shall report any such use to RAMP in writing within five days of receiving such a prescription together with the name of the prescribing health care practitioner, the name of the drug, the quantity, frequency, expected length of use and reason for its use.

5. Respondent shall provide a release to RAMP allowing RAMP to provide pertinent reports, records and other information pertaining to respondent to the Board. Respondent's signature on this order signifies respondent's waiver of any right to confidentiality with respect to these matters, and respondent's agreement that the Board may utilize any such reports, records and other information it receives from RAMP in any proceeding regarding respondent's licensure and that the Board may release any pertinent information in its possession to RAMP.

6. Respondent shall attend regular 12 step support group meetings or the equivalent, and nurse peer support group meetings, if required by RAMP. He shall attend individual counseling and psychiatric treatment until successful discharge,

if required by RAMP. Respondent shall submit to random observed urine testing and/or hair, blood and nail testing if required by RAMP. Respondent's failure to submit to or provide a urine, hair, nail or blood sample when requested shall be deemed to be a violation of the terms of this Order.

7. Respondent shall work only in settings approved by RAMP, and shall have access to or responsibility for administering, dispensing or ordering potentially addictive substances in the course of his employment, only if approved by RAMP. He shall not work more than 12 hours (excluding any additional time needed to meet documentation requirements) within any 24 hour period nor more than 40 hours per week (excluding any additional time needed to meet documentation requirements) within any 24 hour period nor more than 40 hours per week (excluding any additional time needed to meet documentation requirements), unless approved by RAMP.

8 Respondent shall timely provide to RAMP any and all reports required pursuant to his RAMP contract, including reports from his employer or self-assessment reports.

9. Respondent shall notify RAMP within 10 days of any change of address, or any termination, resignation or leave of absence from any place of nursing employment.

10. Respondent shall immediately inform each employer representative and nursing supervisor of the terms of this Order.

and provide them with a copy of the Order. Respondent shall ensure that each employer representative and nursing supervisor provides written notification on facility letterhead to RAMP acknowledging receipt of a copy of the within Order and its terms.

11. Respondent shall remain in RAMP until successful completion of the program. Upon successful completion of RAMP, respondent shall notify the Board in writing. Upon receipt of written notification from the Board, respondent may then be released from the requirements of this Order by written notification, without further order of the Board. Unless respondent has successfully completed RAMP, and received written notification from the Board that he is released from the requirements of this Order, respondent may not modify the conditions of this Order without submitting a written petition to the Board providing a detailed explanation of the basis for the modification requires, and must then enter into a new, modified agreement with the Board in the event the Board grants respondent's petition for modification.

12. Engaging in deceptive practices that are material to the functioning of the program, such as deception relating to screenings including altering urine samples, working as a nurse while not authorized by RAMP to do so, and working as a nurse

without disclosing that employment to RAMP, shall be considered a violation of this order.

13. Any deviation from the terms of this Order without the prior written consent of the Board shall constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this Order. Upon receipt of any reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of this Order, respondent's license may be automatically suspended by the Board. Respondent, upon notice, may request a hearing to contest the entry of such an order. At any such hearing the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding respondent was materially false. In addition, the Board reserves the right to bring further disciplinary action.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Patricia Murphy PhD APN

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

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

William Nicholson
William Nicholson, R.N.