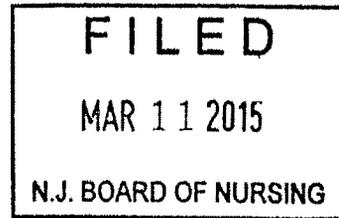


JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law, 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101
Attorney for Board of Nursing



By: DAG Susan Carboni
Tel. (973) 648-2894

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 RECOVATION OF THE LICENSEE OF	:	
	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
LEIGH BUTLER, R.N.	:	OF LICENSE
LICENSE # NO 12319200	:	
	:	
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, Leigh Butler, is the holder of License No. NO12319200 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 7, 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.

3. In a communication dated January 23, 2015, RAMP's Director, Suzanne Alunni-Kinkle, advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with RAMP monitoring requirements, in that she relapsed on November 10, 2014 and December 31, 2014. She texted Director Kinkle on January 3, 2014 that she would not be going to a scheduled drug screening on that date because she had been drinking in New York. Ms. Butler also indicated that she would be leaving RAMP. Ms. Kinkle advised the Board that RAMP had given Ms. Butler time to reconsider, but that on January 23, 2015, Ms. Butler informed RAMP that she would be leaving RAMP and entering another program. (Exhibit B)

4. On or about February 23, 2015, 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. Respondent replied to the February 23, 2015 letter, confirming that she had relapsed on New Year's Eve in December of 2014, and stating that she had notified RAMP on January 23, 2015 that she would be leaving RAMP and enrolling in the Professional Assistance Program of New Jersey (PAP). PAP, in a communication dated January 26, 2015, also submitted a communication indicating that Ms. Butler elected to leave RAMP and to enroll in the PAP. (Exhibit D)

6. The private letter agreement specified that in order to be relieved of the requirements of the private letter agreement for RAMP participation, or to modify those requirements, respondent was required to submit a written petition to the Board, providing a detailed explanation for the basis of the modification request, and then enter into a new, modified agreement with the Board. (Exhibit A, ¶1)

7. A certification from RAMP's director dated March 10, 2015 indicates that Ms. Butler ceased participation in RAMP as of January 23, 2015, following two relapses, and that RAMP did not approve that decision. (Exhibit E)

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. Ms. Butler's decision to cease participation in RAMP following two relapses, without petitioning the Board and obtaining modification of the private letter agreement, constitutes a violation of the terms of the private letter agreement. This constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Accordingly,

IT IS on this 11th day of March, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for his 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 fit and competent to practice nursing, in full compliance with the terms of the private letter agreement, or has entered into a new, modified agreement with the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Murphy PLD APN

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C
Board President