

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

|                                 |   |                       |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF | : | Administrative Action |
|                                 | : |                       |
|                                 | : | FINAL ORDER           |
|                                 | : | WITHDRAWING           |
| STACY COOPER, L.P.N.            | : | PROVISIONAL           |
| License # 26NP05190600          | : | ORDER OF              |
|                                 | : | DISCIPLINE            |
|                                 | : |                       |
| TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE      | : |                       |
| STATE OF NEW JERSEY             | : |                       |

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Stacy Cooper ("Respondent") is a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about May 9, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014," referring to the biennial

renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

3. On December 13, 2014, the Board sent a letter of inquiry to Respondent's mailing address in Millville, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail, requesting certain documents, including proof of having completed the required continuing education.

4. Respondent provided a partial response to the letter of inquiry, but failed to address or mention the issue of continuing education and failed to provide any proof of completion of continuing education.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June

1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand, and a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on June 2, 2015. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline

and provided acceptable documentation of timely completion of required continuing education within the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial renewal period. Respondent was taking college courses to obtain a higher nursing degree.

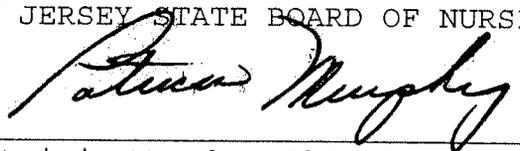
The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. Respondent demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she timely completed the required continuing education.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015,  
ORDERED that:

1. The Provisional Order of Discipline filed on June 2, 2015 is hereby withdrawn in its entirety.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
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Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President