

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**
ANNE MARIE MORRIS, L.P.N. : **PROVISIONAL**
License # 26NP05338100 : **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. Anne Marie Morris ("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 31, 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. By letter dated August 1, 2014, the Board asked Respondent to provide proof of having completed required continuing education from her last biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014.

4. Respondent replied and provided proof of completion of the following continuing education:

0 hours within the 6/1/12 - 5/31/14 biennial period; and
30 hours within the 6/1/14 - 5/31/16 biennial period.

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 - 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.

Respondent may apply the 30 hours completed in August 2014 to cure the deficiency of the previous biennial period and avoid suspension of her license on that basis. However, since those 30 hours are being applied to cure the previous deficiency, they cannot also be applied to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period. Respondent will be required to complete an additional 30 hours prior to May 31, 2016.

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a reprimand and a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on September 3, 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 or conclusions of law

by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings or conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefore.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of discipline and provided documentation that in addition to the continuing education courses previously submitted to the Board, Respondent had also been taking college courses in nursing within the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period. These courses equate to a more than sufficient number of continuing education hours.

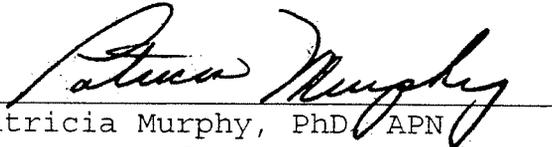
The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary. Respondent demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she had completed sufficient continuing education.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 19th day of April, 2016,
ORDERED that:

1. The Provisional Order of Discipline filed on September 3, 2015 is hereby withdrawn in its entirety

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President