

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
LORETTA OGUONU, APN, RN : PROVISIONAL
APN # 26NJ00462600 : ORDER OF
RN # 26NR13828100 : 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. Loretta Oguonu ("Respondent") is an Advanced Practice Nurse and a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about April 21, 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 was

also asked whether she completed the required one hour course on organ and tissue donation. Respondent answered "yes" to both questions and certified the answers by submitting the online application.

3. By letter dated April 14, 2015, the Board requested that Respondent provide documentation of continuing education that she had completed during her last biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014.

4. In reply, Respondent acknowledged that she had not taken as many continuing education courses as she would have liked. She provided three certificates, but they were insufficient proof of completion of continuing education because the certificates did not include contact hours and did not include language indicating that the courses were approved or accredited as continuing education for nurses. Respondent provided proof of completion of the following continuing education:

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

0 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 periods 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 December 29, 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 therefore.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline and provided documentation demonstrating completion of more than ample amounts of continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 and June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2016 biennial renewal periods.

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, including the one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation.

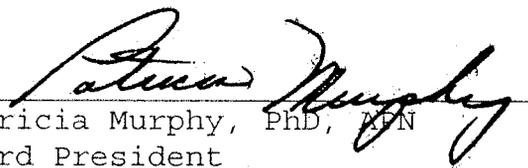
ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 28th day of April, 2016,

ORDERED that:

1. The Provisional Order of Discipline filed on December 29, 2015 is hereby withdrawn in its entirety.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD, RN
Board President