

PROVISIONAL
ORDER OF DISCIPLINE
FILED
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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

FINAL
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APR 28 2016
N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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

By: Barbara J.K. Lopez
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-7454

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
: :
: PROVISIONAL ORDER
: OF DISCIPLINE
: :
CARLTON SOTILLO, R.N. :
License # 26NO10363200 : FINAL ORDER
: OF DISCIPLINE
: (Finalized by default
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE : on APRIL 28, 2016)
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. Carlton Sotilleo ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto. (Exhibit A).

2. On or about April 6, 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 the answer by submitting the online application. (Exhibit B).

3. By letter dated October 21, 2014, the Board asked Respondent to provide proof of having completed required continuing education during his last biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. (Exhibit C).

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

6 hours within the 6/1/10 - 5/31/12 biennial period;

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

4.25 hours within the 6/1/14 - 5/31/16 biennial period.

Respondent believed that he had timely completed all required continuing education, but acknowledged that he had not kept copies of his certificates of completion. He indicated that he

would send additional documentation if he was able to obtain it. The Board received no further response regarding continuing education. (Exhibit D).

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 his continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8th day of September, 2015,

ORDERED that upon the filing of a FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE in this matter:

1. Respondent's license to practice nursing is suspended until such time as Respondent provides proof of completion of thirty hours of continuing education for each biennial renewal period from June 1, 2012 until the time of reinstatement (an additional 18.25 hours for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2015 biennial period; plus any hours towards the current biennial period of June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2016).

2. Continuing education hours taken currently and applied to cure the deficiency from the previous biennial period shall not also be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

3. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on his license renewal application.

4. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New

Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of a **Final Order of Discipline**. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

5. Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent himself as a Registered Professional Nurse until such time as his license is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

6. The within order shall be subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day following entry hereof unless Respondent requests a modification or dismissal of the above stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by:

a) Submitting a written request for modification or dismissal to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

b) Setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed.

c) Submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor or offered in mitigation of penalty.

7. Any submissions will be reviewed by the Board and the Board will thereafter determine whether further proceedings are necessary. If no material discrepancies are raised through a supplemental submission during the thirty-day period, or if the Board is not persuaded that the submitted materials merit further consideration, a Final Order of Discipline will be entered.

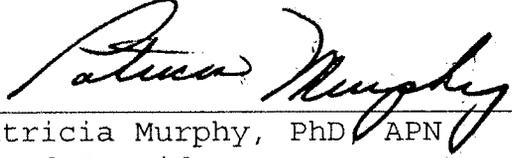
8. In the event that Respondent's submissions establish a need for further proceedings, including, but not limited to an evidentiary hearing, Respondent shall be notified with regard thereto. In the event that an evidentiary hearing is ordered, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law contained herein may serve as notice of the factual and legal allegations in such proceeding. Further, in the event a hearing is held and upon review of the record, the Board shall not be limited to the findings, conclusions and sanctions stated herein.

9. In the event that the Board receives no written submission from Respondent within 30 days following filing of this Provisional Order of Discipline, without further Board

review, the Provisional Order of Discipline shall automatically become the Final Order of Discipline. The box for Final Order of Discipline shall be checked, the Final Order of Discipline shall be filed, and copies shall be mailed to Respondent. Thereafter, Respondent's failure to comply with any sanction or penalty imposed by this Order shall be considered a violation of a Board Order in contravention of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) and (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and may subject Respondent to additional sanction and/or penalty.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD APN
Board President