

2. On or about April 10, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application. Respondent was asked on the biennial renewal application whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014," referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2014. Respondent answered "Yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application. Respondent also answered "Yes" to the question which asked whether Respondent completed the required one hour course on Organ and Tissue Donation.

3. The Board sent a letter of inquiry requesting, in part, documentation of completed continuing education to Respondent's address of record in Union, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about May 21, 2015. (Exhibit C).

4. Respondent provided 60.5 hours of continuing documentation of continuing education that were completed in July 2015, after the May 31, 2014 deadline.

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. By February 7, 2014, every Registered Professional Nurse was required to complete a one hour course on organ and

tissue donation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(j). 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, 2013 to May 31, 2015. 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 the continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 19th day of July, 2016,

ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for misrepresenting the continuing education information on the license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and 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: **Marc De Carlo, 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.

3. 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: **Marc De Carlo, 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

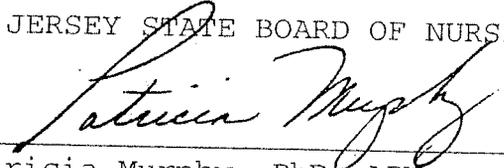
6. In the event that the Board receives no written submission from Respondent within 30 days following filing of this Provisional Order of Discipline, without further Board

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