



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 OF**  
: **DISCIPLINE**  
REBECCA NEEQUAYE, L.P.N. :   
License # 26NP04679200 :   
:   
:   
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. Rebecca Neequaye ("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 March 21, 2014, the Board wrote to Respondent and asked, among other things, for documentation of completion, in the form of certificates of completion, of required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 licensing cycle.

3. Respondent's reply to the communication consisted of documentation of completion of sixty (60) contact hours of qualifying continuing education completed on March 31, 2014 and May 30, 2014.

4. Respondent was again contacted by certified and regular mail at her address of record on behalf of the Board, and advised that she had not provided documentation indicating that she had completed any nursing continuing education during the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 licensing cycle. The certified mailing was returned, unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned. No response was received which included documentation of any continuing education completed during the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 licensing cycle.

5. Respondent indicated on her 2012 renewal application that all required continuing education for the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 cycle would be completed by May 31, 2012. She also indicated in her initial response to the Board's inquiry that she had completed required continuing education for the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 licensing cycle.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, all licensees are required to complete thirty (30) contact hours of qualifying continuing education by May 31 of the year in which renewal of license takes place. Although Respondent sent in documentation of completion of sixty (60) contact hours of continuing education completed in March

and May of 2014, and may apply thirty (30) of those hours to cure the deficiency of her June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 obligation, she failed to timely complete her obligation for June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

Respondent's indication on her 2012 renewal application that she would complete all required continuing education by May 31, 2012 for the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 licensing cycle constitutes misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a reprimand and a two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on December 23, 2015. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order by providing documentation of thirty seven (37) contact hours of qualifying continuing education completed in January 2016. As such, Respondent has provided documentation of completion of the following continuing education:

0 hours within the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 period;  
60 hours within the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 period; and  
37 hours within the June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2016 period.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. Respondent did not timely complete her continuing education requirement for the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012, licensing cycle. As a result, both the reprimand and two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty are warranted.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016,  
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

2. A two hundred fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. 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 State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, 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 twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this 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.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President