



FINAL

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF	:	
THE CERTIFICATION OF	:	ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
	:	
Helen Stefanopoulos, C.H.H.A.	:	
Certificate No. 26NH15314500	:	
	:	
	:	FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE AS A	:	
HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "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. Helen Stefanopoulos ("Respondent") is a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. Upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Respondent was arrested on June 22, 2015 by the members of the

Maple Shade Township Police Department for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1A (Simple Assault), the Board sent a letter of inquiry, requesting certain information and submission of documents, to Respondent's address of record in Maple Shade, New Jersey, via regular and certified mailings. A response was due within twenty (20) days. The certified mailing was returned as "Unclaimed." The regular mailing was not returned.

3. Respondent did not reply to the Board's request for information.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension of Respondent's certification, and a two hundred dollar (\$200) civil penalty was entered on February 19, 2016. 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 therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order and provided a disposition showing that she had pled not guilty and the matter was dismissed on August 31, 2015. After being notified that the Board would likely consider her response inadequate as it failed to include the bulk of information and documentation requested in the Board's letter of inquiry, Respondent sent in a supplemental response. Respondent provided her request for a copy of the police report (which request was denied pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:25-33), municipal court complaint, disposition, narrative, witness statement, information about her place of CHHA employment, and a satisfactory work performance evaluation. The documents reveal that there was a domestic incident involving Respondent, her brother, and their parents involving the care that the parents require and whether they should receive it at home (Respondent's house) or in a facility. The case was dismissed. Respondent never offered any explanation as to why she did not respond to the Board's initial letter of

inquiry which had been mailed to her in June 2015.

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. However, the Board did determine that the Provisional Order should be finalized with modification. Inasmuch as Respondent provided all the information originally requested, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted. However, the Board determined that Respondent's failure to respond to the original inquiry, thereby necessitating the filing of the Provisional Order of Discipline, and review of Respondent's subsequent reply months later, warrants imposition of a two hundred dollar (\$200) civil penalty.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 9th day of November, 2016,

ORDERED that:

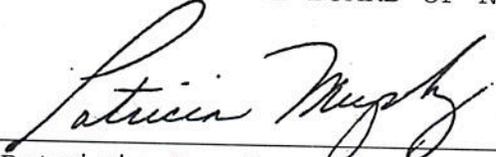
1. Respondent is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200). Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Twalema Khonje, 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 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.

2. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon any information that Respondent ultimately provides in response to the letter of inquiry or upon any new information the Board receives.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:



Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
President