

Respondent also provided testimony during his plea colloquy, admitting that between May 19, 2005 and November 26, 2006, on thirteen separate occasions respondent's wife awarded respondent, either as Ronald Patrick Plumbing, or as JDL Contracting, contracts for work on Franklin Township properties. The total amount of Franklin Township work project money received by respondent, through his wife, was two hundred eighty three thousand, three hundred three dollars and seventy-five cents (\$283,303.75).

Respondent also admitted that between May 19, 2005 and November 29, 2006 he submitted various bids to his wife through Franklin Township. There was a pattern of submitting bids and being awarded contracts by respondent's wife through Franklin Township to respondent or his company.

Respondent further admitted that on September 27, 2007, he had a conversation with Joseph DeLuca, who was associated with JDL Contracting, in an attempt to induce Mr. DeLuca to provide certain false information or withhold information from law enforcement agencies concerning respondent's involvement in the submission of the bids. Respondent admitted that he and his wife conspired to induce Mr. DeLuca to provide certain false information or withhold information from law enforcement agencies.

With regard to indictment #09-06-00428-I, respondent pled guilty to one count of Failure to File Gross Income Tax Returns (N.J.S.A. 54:52-8), one count of Failure to Pay Taxes (N.J.S.A. 54:52-9), one count of Filing False or Fraudulent Gross Income Taxes (N.J.S.A. 54:52-10), and one count of Failure to Maintain Books or Records with the Intent to Evade Taxes (N.J.S.A. 54:52-12).

According to respondent's plea colloquy, pertaining to indictment #09-06-00428-I, respondent admitted that between April 15, 2001, and April 15, 2002, he failed to file his tax returns for the calendar years of 2000 and 2001. Respondent acknowledged that he had an obligation to file but did not.

Respondent also admitted that between various dates, from 1997 thru 2006, he failed to pay and provide the New Jersey tax authorities with all the gross receipts that he may have received for the purposes of properly submitting his New Jersey state tax returns and that he knew this was illegal. He also admitted that he failed to actually pay his total tax obligations for those calendar years.

Respondent further admitted that between January 1, 2006, and April 15, 2007, he failed to file, amend or supplement any of his tax returns for the years 2005 and 2006, and that by doing so, he was attempting to avoid making any payments toward taxes, fees, penalties or interest

during those years.

Finally, respondent admitted that between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2006, in an attempt to evade paying all of his legitimate taxes to the State, he failed to fully maintain the books or records of Ronald Patrick Plumbing, as required by New Jersey State tax law.

On September 13, 2010, respondent was sentenced to seven (7) years in New Jersey State Prison, to be served concurrently on all counts of both indictments. According to the Judgments of Conviction, the Judge cited four aggravating factors, and no mitigating factors, when imposing sentence.

Respondent submitted an on-line application to renew his New Jersey Master Plumber's license for the 2011-2013 renewal period. In response to the question, "Since your last renewal have you been arrested, charged or convicted of any crime or offense that you have not already reported to your board/committee?" Respondent answered "no". According to the renewal application, respondent made that on-line entry on July 8, 2011. Respondent's Judgments of Conviction were entered on September 13, 2010 and respondent had not previously reported the convictions to the Board.

Accordingly, on August 18, 2011, the Board entered a Provisional order of Discipline against respondent. The order provisionally revoked respondent's license to practice plumbing in the State of New Jersey. In response to the Provisional Order of Discipline, respondent provided a letter requesting modification. Additionally, Peter G. Caplan, Esq. counsel for respondent, provided a letter requesting a mitigation hearing and offered evidence in mitigation of the penalty. Such evidence included a property settlement agreement between respondent and his wife as part of the final order of divorce, which requires respondent to assume his ex-wife's child support obligations. Additionally, a letter from respondent's current employer stated respondent is a "totally reliable and trustworthy" employee, "he works hard and consistent".

Finally, respondent asserted he has been participating in the Intensive Supervision Program ("ISP") since November 2011. The Board recognizes that the ISP program is designed as a form of intermediate punishment between incarceration and probation. It is designed for non-violent offenders, who are amenable to rehabilitation, and affords them an opportunity to work their way back into the community under intensive supervision. Respondent will be subject to the restrictions of the ISP program until November 2012.

Following service of the Provisional Order of Discipline, the parties have agreed that in lieu

of the filing of a Final Order of Discipline, the Provisional Order of Discipline would be resolved via entry of this Consent Order. The Board finds that the facts presented establish a basis for disciplinary action, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), in that the facts surrounding respondent's convictions on September 13, 2010 involve the use and employment of dishonesty, fraud, deception, misrepresentation, false promise and false pretense.

The Board also finds that the facts presented establish a basis for disciplinary action, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f), in that respondent has been convicted of crimes and offenses involving moral turpitude and relating adversely to the activity regulated by the Board. Finally, the Board finds that the facts presented establish a basis for disciplinary action, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), in that respondent has engaged in the use and employment of dishonesty, deception and misrepresentation, as well as having engaged in professional misconduct, by falsely indicating on his renewal that he had not been arrested, charged or convicted of a crime or offense.

It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to additional formal proceedings, and having considered the mitigation evidence provided by respondent, the Board has determined that this settlement adequately protects the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown;

IT IS, on this 22 day of MARCH, 2012

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's license to practice as a master plumber in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for a period of two (2) years, retroactive to November 1, 2011.
2. Within ten (10) days of the date of this order, respondent shall surrender his master plumber seal press to the Board.
3. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from engaging in the practice of master plumbing in the State of New Jersey.
4. Prior to any restoration of license, respondent shall:
 - a. Appear before the Board, or a committee of the Board, to discuss his readiness to re-enter the practice of master plumbing. At that time, respondent shall be prepared to propose his plans for future practice in New Jersey.
 - b. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he has completed the Intensive Supervision Program and was successfully discharged from the program. Respondent shall likewise demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that he was successfully discharged from

any subsequent probationary program, or that he has been complaint with any then current probationary program.

c. Affirmatively establish his fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active practice of plumbing within New Jersey, including an accounting of all continuing education courses completed while his license was surrendered.

d. Provide the Board with a full account of his conduct during the intervening period from the time of suspension of his license through application for reinstatement.

5. The Board, in its sole discretion, will determine whether and under what conditions respondent may return to practice. Any reinstatement of respondent's license may be conditioned on such limitations, monitoring or restrictions as the Board finds necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

6. Any practice in this State prior to formal reinstatement of license by the Board shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
EXAMINERS OF MASTER PLUMBERS

By: *Peter I. Voros*
Peter I. Voros
Board Chairman

I have read and I understand this
Consent Order and agree
To be bound by its terms. I consent
to the entry of this order.

Ronald P. DeSantis
Ronald P. DeSantis, LMP

3/10/2012
Date

I hereby agree to the entry of this order
Order as to form.

Peter G. Caplan
Peter G. Caplan Esq.
Attorney for Ronald P. DeSantis, LMP

2/13/12
Date