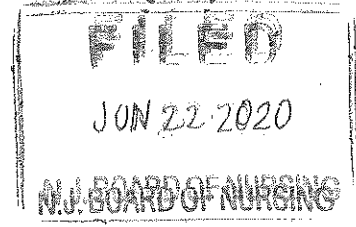


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC

SAFETY

DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF
THE CERTIFICATE OF

Michael A. Edwards, C.H.H.A.
Certificate No. 26NH13812500

TO PRACTICE AS A CERTIFIED
HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**INTERIM CONSENT ORDER OF
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of an arrest report detailing that Michael A. Edwards ("Respondent"), a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey, was arrested on May 21, 2020 and charged with violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3a, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact. Specifically, it is alleged that Respondent placed his hands under the shirt of an 84-year old patient who suffers from dementia, to grope, touch or grab her breast.

The allegations, if proven, would disqualify Respondent from certification under N.J.S.A. 45:11-24.3 and demonstrate that Respondent has engaged in an act constituting a crime or offense relating adversely to the activity regulated by the Board, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f), providing bases for disciplinary action against Respondent's certification.

It appearing that Respondent agrees to voluntarily enter into an interim agreement temporarily surrendering his certification, to be deemed a suspension, without making admissions and without prejudice to his ability to defend any action brought based on the above allegations, and the Board finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for good cause shown;

IT IS THEREFORE ON THIS 2nd day of June, 2020,

ORDERED:

- Respondent is hereby granted leave and shall immediately surrender his certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey pending disposition of any criminal charges against him and further order of the Board. Said surrender shall be deemed a temporary suspension of Respondent's certification.
- Respondent shall, contemporaneously with the signing of this Order, forward his homemaker-home health aide certificate, both wallet and wall versions, to Joanne Magrath, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.
- Respondent shall immediately cease and desist from holding himself out as a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and/or

practicing as a certified homemaker-home health aide, which includes but is not limited to performing delegated nursing regimens or nursing tasks delegated through the authority of a duly licensed professional nurse pending further order of the Board.

- Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability on the part of Respondent.

- The entry of the within Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statutes or regulations governing homemaker-home health aide practice in the State of New Jersey or any other violations of law, by the Board, the Attorney General, or any other regulatory or law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, any pending matters under investigation.

- Nothing herein shall preclude the Board from initiating further disciplinary action based upon any of the conduct that Respondent is alleged to have engaged in as set forth above.

- In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of his New Jersey certification in the future, at the Board's discretion, Respondent shall:

- a. Appear before the Board to discuss his readiness to reenter practice as a homemaker-home health aide.
- b. Provide the Board with evidence that he is capable of discharging the functions of a certificate holder in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare.
- c. Provide the Board with documentation demonstrating how the criminal charges against Respondent were adjudicated/resolved and that Respondent has satisfied any criminal penalties imposed on him.

- The Board reserves the right to place restrictions and/or limitations upon Respondent's certification to practice as a homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey in the event that his certification is reinstated.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Barbara Blozen Ed.D. MA RN-BC CNL
Barbara B. Blozen, Ed.D, MA, RN-BC, CNL
Board President

I have read and understand
the above Consent Order and
I agree to abide by its terms.

Michael A. Edwards
Michael A, Edwards

6/18/20
Date

I agree to the form of this Order

SK Mohel
SK Mohel, Esq.

6/18/20
Date