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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
: :
MICHELLE S. ABRAMS, RN : CONSENT ORDER
License No. 26NR08015200 : :
: :
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 Michelle S. Abrams's (Respondent's) petition for reinstatement of her license as a Registered Professional Nurse. By Final Order of Discipline filed on March 11, 2014, Respondent's license was suspended until she cooperated with a Board investigation and provided proof of completion of continuing education. The Final Order also imposed

a reprimand and a seven hundred and fifty dollar (\$750) civil penalty. By way of background, the Board received a report alleging that Respondent had falsified time slips, company records, and patient records while working as a supervisory nurse for Newborn Nurses. The Board sent letters of inquiry to Respondent as part of an investigation regarding the allegations. Respondent never replied and ultimately the Final Order of Discipline was entered by default.

Respondent now maintains that she had moved, failed to update her address of record and her mailing address with the Board, and never received the Board's letters of inquiry. She learned that her license was suspended on April 8, 2014 when a subsequent employer ran a monthly license verification check.

In her petition for reinstatement, Respondent provided written answers to the Board's questions about the allegations made by Newborn Nurses. Respondent admitted that she signed her name on forms that she never read and documented things that she actually didn't do. Respondent maintains that she was merely following instructions from her supervisor (who was not a nurse), they were short staffed, and she was experiencing medical issues. Respondent maintains she resigned from the position on March 31, 2012 due to her medical issues and her concerns about the

workload and the legality of what she was being asked to do. Respondent further maintains that her time at Newborn Nurses was a learning experience and that she chose to resign and go back to working in intensive care units, where she had previously worked for over twenty years.

Thereafter, Respondent worked at Kennedy Hospital until she was terminated due to absenteeism in April 2013. Next, Respondent began working at Lourdes Medical Center in July 2013 and continued working until April ^{7th} 22, 2014 when it was discovered that her license had been suspended on March 11, 2014.

The Board finds that Respondent's engaging in the practice of nursing subsequent to suspension of her nursing license constitutes the unlicensed practice of nursing in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:11-37 and 45:1-25. Additionally, the Board finds that by signing her name on forms that she never read and documenting things that she actually didn't do, Respondent engaged in professional misconduct within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and also engaged in the use or employment of misrepresentation within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

The Board having accepted that Respondent was not aware of the suspension of her license at the time of her practice from March 11, 2014 through April 22, 2014 and that she has expressed

remorse for her falsification of records at Newborn Nurses, which she has admitted, and having determined that reinstatement of Respondent's license to practice nursing is appropriate, and that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public's health, safety and welfare, in lieu of further proceedings, Respondent waiving any right to a hearing, and for other good cause shown;


IT IS on this 23 day of January, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED that:


1. Michelle S. Abrams is hereby reprimanded for violating N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and (e).
2. Michelle S. Abrams is hereby assessed a civil penalty in the total amount of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500). 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 contemporaneously with this signed Consent Order. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment.
3. Michelle S. Abrams's petition for reinstatement of her license to practice nursing in New Jersey shall be granted upon review and approval of a completed application for reinstatement

along with the requisite fees, information, criminal history background check, and payment of any civil penalty herein imposed.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: 
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APRN
Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.


Michelle S. Abrams, RN
License #26NR08015200