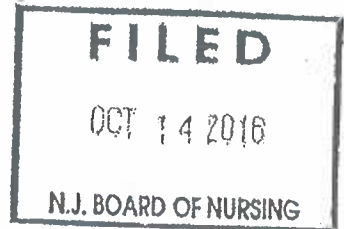


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSES
AND CERTIFICATION OF

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

SWANZYBELLA PIMPONG
RN LICENSE NO. 26NR16579600
LPN LICENSE NO. 26NP06068900
HHA CERT. NO. 26NH09308300

TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED
PROFESSIONAL NURSE, LICENSED
PRACTICAL NURSE, AND AS A
HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") by Christopher S. Porrino, Attorney General of New Jersey, Christopher Salloum, Deputy Attorney General, appearing, upon receipt of information evidencing that the Respondent, Swanzybella Pimpong, engaged in a pattern of fraud, dishonesty, deception, and misrepresentation regarding her nursing credentials, her vocational and educational background, and her licensure history.

On March 1, 2016, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-18(a), the Attorney General issued the Respondent a Demand For a Statement In Writing Under Oath ("Demand") commanding the Respondent to respond under oath to certain questions regarding her practice of nursing and her educational and vocational background.

In her sworn written response to the Demand, the Respondent falsely represented that she had only been licensed to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey, that she had never submitted an application to obtain a license to practice nursing in any other jurisdiction, and that she had never been the subject of disciplinary action by any of her former nursing employers. The Attorney General's investigation revealed, however, that the Respondent possesses a currently-expired license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse in the State of Ohio, applied for a license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse in the State of Ohio, and was the subject of disciplinary action for reasons relating to her nursing performance by two former employers in New Jersey. The Attorney General's investigation also revealed that the Respondent had worked in the State of Ohio as a home-health aide from June 2007 to May 2008 without a certification.

On September 15, 2016, the Respondent appeared before a Committee of the Board to discuss, among other things, her sworn response to the Demand. The Respondent's testimony compounded the misrepresentations that she made in her response to the Demand.

During her testimony, the Respondent falsely claimed that she had never been licensed to practice nursing or certified as a homemaker-home health aide in any other jurisdiction, had never applied for a license in any other jurisdiction, had never been the subject of disciplinary action by any former employer, and had never visited, worked or lived in, the State of Ohio prior to 2011, the year she purportedly attended Ohio American Health Care, a now-defunct nursing school formerly located in the State of Ohio. In addition, the Respondent's testimony, along with evidence obtained by the Attorney General, raised several questions concerning the quality of the nursing education that the Respondent purportedly received at Ohio American Health Care.

The Respondent's conduct, as described above, constitutes professional misconduct, and the use or employment of fraud, dishonesty, deception, and misrepresentation, and thereby empowers the Board to suspend her homemaker-home health aide certification and her license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse in this State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and (e), and to revoke her license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse in this State pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and (e).

The parties, desiring to resolve this matter without the institution of a formal disciplinary proceeding, and it appearing that the Respondent has read the terms of the within Order and understands their meaning and effect and, on the advice of counsel, consents to be bound by same, and the Board finding the within

disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare, and further finding that good cause exists for the entry of this Order:

IT IS, therefore, on this 14th day of October 2016

ORDERED and AGREED that:

1. Effective October 17, 2016 ("Effective Revocation Date"), the Respondent's license to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse shall be, and hereby is, revoked.

2. Effective October 17, 2016 ("Effective Suspension Date"), the Respondent's currently-expired license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse shall be, and hereby is, suspended for twenty-four (24) months, of which at least six (6) months shall be served as a period of active suspension, and the remainder shall be served as a period of probation. The Respondent's license shall be placed on probation no earlier than six (6) months from the Effective Suspension Date, provided, however, that the Respondent has not been practicing nursing in another jurisdiction during the period of active suspension.

3. Effective October 17, 2016 ("Effective Suspension Date"), the Respondent's currently-expired certification as a homemaker-home health aide shall be, and hereby is, suspended for twenty-four (24) months, of which six (6) months shall be served as a period of active suspension, and the remainder shall be served as a period of probation. The Respondent's certification shall be placed on probation no earlier than six (6) months from the Effective

Suspension Date, provided, however, that the Respondent has not been practicing nursing or working as a homemaker-home health aide in another jurisdiction during the period of active suspension.

4. On the Effective Revocation Date, the Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of nursing as a registered professional nurse. The Respondent shall not represent to anyone that she is licensed to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse.

5. On the Effective Suspension Date, the Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the practice of nursing as a licensed practical nurse. The Respondent shall not represent to anyone that she is licensed to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse.

6. On the Effective Suspension Date, the Respondent shall not work as, seek employment as, or represent herself as, a certified homemaker-home health aide and/or practice as a 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 in the State of New Jersey.

7. The Respondent shall not submit, and the Board shall not entertain, an application for licensure as a registered professional nurse for twenty-four (24) months from the date that this Order is filed. This time period will be tolled for any length of time that Respondent practiced as a registered

professional nurse in another jurisdiction. Should the Respondent submit an application seeking licensure as a registered professional nurse twenty-four (24) months from the date that this Order is filed, the Respondent shall not utilize and the Board shall not accept, any diploma or credentials that she might have received from Ohio American Health Care. Instead, the Respondent shall submit credentials from a currently-accredited nursing school acceptable to the Board.

8. The Respondent shall be, and hereby is, assessed a civil penalty in the amount of Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00), of which Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars shall be stayed provided, however, that the Respondent complies with the terms of this Order. Failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order shall automatically activate the stayed civil penalty, which shall then be automatically due and owing. The Respondent shall pay the remaining amount of the civil penalty in twelve (12) monthly installments as follows: Four Hundred Sixteen and 67/100 Dollars (\$416.67) for the first eleven payments and Four Hundred Sixteen and 63/100 Dollars (\$416.63) for the twelfth and final payment, all of which shall be due by the fifteenth day of each month, beginning on November 15, 2016.

9. Payment shall be made by wire transfer, bank check, certified check, or money order payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey." Payment shall be sent to the attention of Leslie Burgos, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor,

Newark, New Jersey 07101, no later than thirty (30) days from the filing of this Order. Any other form of payment shall be rejected, returned, and deemed unremitted. If the Respondent fails to pay in full the civil penalty assessed herein, a Certificate of Debt shall be filed pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 to protect the judgment and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

10. On the Effective Revocation and Effective Suspension Dates, the Respondent shall return her original licenses and certifications, as well as her renewal forms, to the Executive Director of the Board.

11. The entry of this Order shall not preclude the Board, at its discretion, from requiring the Respondent to appear before the Board, or a committee thereof, prior to the reinstatement of her license to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse or her certification as a homemaker-home health aide to discuss her return to practice and/or the lessons that she learned during the period of suspension.

12. The entry of this Order shall be without prejudice to further action by this Board or other law enforcement entities resulting from Respondent's conduct not addressed by the terms of this Order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: 

Patricia Murphy, Ph.D., A.V.N.
Board President

I have read the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. I understand the meaning and effect of this Order and understand that it has serious legal consequences. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Consent Order.


Swanzybella Pimpong

10/13/2016
Date

I hereby consent to the form of this Order.


Richard West, Esq.

10/14/16
Date