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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
REVOCAION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF

**Debra L. Matela, C.H.H.A.
Certificate No. 26NH14963200**

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

Administrative Action

INTERIM CONSENT ORDER
OF VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
TO BE DEEMED A
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information indicating that Debra L. Matela, C.H.H.A. ("Respondent"), holder of certificate number **26NH14963200**, was arrested on February 26, 2017, by officers of the Gloucester Township Police Department and charged with Simple Assault on an Institutionalized Elderly Person, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(d). Specifically, it is alleged that Respondent caused an elderly mental health resident to fall from a wheelchair while Respondent was employed as a Certified Nurse Aide ("CNA") at the Northbrook Behavioral Health Hospital. Respondent holds a CNA certification from the

New Jersey Department of Health. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent also held an active certification from this Board to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:11-24.1 et seq.

The allegations, if proven, would demonstrate that Respondent engaged in acts constituting a crime or offense relating adversely to the practice of a certified homemaker home-health aide, and would provide grounds for discipline against Respondent's certificate to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f). Respondent desires to resolve this matter on an interim basis without formal disciplinary proceedings, and agrees to voluntarily surrender her certificate without making admissions and without prejudicing her ability to defend any criminal action against her based on the above-stated allegations.

The Board, finding the within disposition adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare of the people of New Jersey, and other good cause having been shown;

IT IS ON THIS ____ day of _____ 2017, HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall voluntarily surrender her certification to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey, to be deemed a temporary suspension, and to be effective immediately. Respondent's certificate shall remain temporarily suspended pending disposition of all criminal charges against her, and until further Order of the Board.

2. Respondent shall immediately surrender her most recent certificate to practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide, and any biennial registration cards, to the Board by submitting the same, together with this signed Order, to the New Jersey Board of Nursing, Attention: Wendy Leggett Faulk, DAG, at 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45029, Newark, New Jersey, 07101.

3. Respondent shall immediately stop representing herself as a Certified Homemaker-Home Health Aide and stop practicing as a certified homemaker-home health aide in New Jersey, which includes but is not limited to, performing delegated nursing regimens or nursing tasks delegated through the authority of a duly licensed professional nurse. Any such practice by Respondent constitutes grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

4. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed an admission of liability by Respondent, nor prejudice her ability to defend against any criminal charges.

5. Respondent acknowledges that she has been specifically advised of her right to have this Consent Order reviewed by an attorney of her choosing.

6. The entry of this Order is without prejudice to the further investigation and/or prosecution of any violations by Respondent of any statute or regulation governing the privilege to practice as a certified homemaker home-health aide in the State of New Jersey or any other violation 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.

7. Nothing in this Order shall preclude the Board from initiating further disciplinary action based upon Respondent's conduct, whether or not relating to the

allegations above and/or upon disposition of the criminal charges against her. The Board reserves the right to impose discipline, limitations, and/or restrictions at the time Respondent seeks reinstatement of her certificate.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: _____
Patricia Murphy, PhD., APN, FAAN
Board President

I have read the Interim Consent Order above. I understand what it says and I agree to be bound by the terms. I know it is an important legal document and that I have a right to have it reviewed by an attorney. I choose to enter into this agreement with the Board of Nursing without being advised by an attorney. I give my consent to the Board of Nursing to enter this Order.

Debra L. Matela C.H.H.A. (Sign Name)
Debra L. Matela, C.H.H.A.
Certificate No. 26NH14963200

Date: 3/22/17