



**PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**STATE BOARD OF NURSING
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS
March 2007**

Secretary of the Commonwealth Pedro A. Cortés and Basil L. Merenda, Commissioner of the Department's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, announced 46 disciplinary actions taken by the following State Board of Nursing.

Actions were taken against individuals or firms in the following counties: Allegheny (3 actions); Armstrong (1 action); Berks (1 action); Blair (2 actions); Bucks (4 actions); Crawford (1 action); Cumberland (1 action); Delaware (1 action); Erie (1 action); Lackawanna (1 action); Lancaster (1 action); Lawrence (1 action); Lebanon (1 action); Luzerne (4 actions); McKean (2 actions); Montgomery (4 actions); Montour (1 action); Philadelphia (4 actions); Venango (1 action); Washington (1 action); Wayne (1 action); Westmoreland (2 actions); and York (3 actions). Four actions involved Pennsylvania licensees with out-of-state addresses.

Allegheny County

Garrett D. Hall, license no. RN531203L, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Nov. 13, 2006, based on findings that he is unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of addiction to alcohol or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. (12-14-06)

Andrea Lee Baker, license no. RN506056L, of Harwick, Allegheny County, had her license suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to July 14, 2006, based on her violation of the terms of her Voluntary Recovery Program Consent Agreement of the Professional Health Monitoring Program. (12-28-06)

Donna M. Spezzano, license no. PN087433L, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was suspended for at least three years, retroactive to Jan. 4, 2007. Spezzano violated a board order by which disciplinary action was deferred while she participated in a board-approved treatment program. (2-23-07)

Armstrong County

Judith Walker, license no. RN142136L, of Ford City, Armstrong County, was reprimanded and assessed a \$5,000 civil penalty for practicing on an expired license. (01-04-07)

Berks County

Patti Fegley Richard, license no. RN259766L of Reading, Berks County, had her license suspended for a period of three years, stayed in favor of three years probation subject to terms and conditions. Richard is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental or physical illness or condition or physiological dependence upon alcohol, hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. Richard last practiced in Reading, Berks County. (02-13-07)

Blair County

Michelle L. Becker, a/k/a Michelle Lee Eisel, license no. RN052479L, of Altoona, Blair County, was assessed a \$200 civil penalty based on findings she pled guilty to one count of theft by deception, a misdemeanor violation. (01-12-07)

Sheila M. Gehl, license no. RN521845L of Altoona, Blair County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than three years because Gehl is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental impairment. (02-12-06)

Bucks County

William K. Irvine, license no. PN152096L, of Levittown, Bucks County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Oct. 5, 2006. Irvine is unable to practice practical nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of addiction to alcohol or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. (12-06-06)

Katherine Ann Musser, license no. PN252716L, of Southampton, Bucks County, had her practical nursing license suspended for one year, all but the first two months stayed in favor of probation, based on findings she received an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition in disposition of felony charges. (01-10-07)

Judith P. Robinson, license no. PN092170L, of Levittown, Bucks County, was indefinitely suspended because she misappropriated drugs from her employer or patients, committed fraud or deceit in the practice of practical nursing, and was guilty of unprofessional conduct. (02-21-07)

Carol A. Reiss, license no. PN-096436-L, of Levittown, Bucks County, was suspended for one year based upon her unprofessional conduct of failing to maintain accurate records and falsifying entries in a patient's records. The entire period of suspension was stayed in favor of probation. (02-22-07)

Crawford County

Rebecca Louise Scott, license no. RN505471L, of Meadville, Crawford County, was reprimanded and assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty for practicing on a lapsed license. (02-21-07)

Cumberland County

Terri L. Terlinski, license no. RN352473L, of Camp Hill, Cumberland County, was indefinitely suspended because she misappropriated drugs from her employer or patients, knowingly made incorrect entries into patient records, committed fraud or deceit in the practice of nursing, acquired controlled substances for other than acceptable medical purposes and was guilty of unprofessional conduct. (02-21-07)

Delaware County

Colleen H. Bijeau, license no. RN329943L of East Lansdowne, Delaware County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than three years because Bijeau is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental impairment. (02-13-07)

Erie County

Krystal E. Barton, license no. PN260709L, of Erie, Erie County, had her license indefinitely suspended for no less than thirty-nine months, after which three months she may petition the board to have her license reinstated to probationary status for a period of three years. Barton is addicted to alcohol or is addicted to hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination and has been guilty of unprofessional conduct or such conduct as to require a suspension or revocation in the public interest. (01-12-07)

Lackawanna County

Angel R. Gibbs, license no. RN527933L of Olyphant, Lackawanna County, was suspended for no less than two years. Gibbs is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of addiction to narcotic drugs; and Gibbs possessed, used, acquired or distributed a controlled substance for other than an acceptable medical purpose when she acquired Fentanyl by and through forged prescriptions. (02-12-07)

Lancaster County

Jodi Winsett Tshudy, license no. PN265102L, of Quarryville, Lancaster County, was indefinitely suspended, based upon her failure to submit to a mental and physical examination. (01-05-07)

Lawrence County

Valerie Gail Fowler, license no. PN265989 of New Castle, Lawrence County, was suspended for one month and must complete additional remedial education on ethics because Fowler misappropriated the property of a patient. (02-13-07)

Lebanon County

Judd D. Groff, certificate no. RT002469A, of Annville, Lebanon County, was suspended for one year as of Sept. 23, 2006, with the remainder of the suspension stayed in favor of probation. Groff violated the terms of the Voluntary Recovery Program agreement. (01-18-07)

Luzerne County

Angela Peters Phillips, license no. RN317462L, of Mt. Top, Luzerne County, was suspended for six months based on findings that she pled guilty to access device fraud. (01-10-07)

James T. Clark, license no. RN506167L of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty and his license was suspended for one year, stayed in favor of one year probation. Clark has been convicted, or has pleaded guilty, or entered a plea of *nolo contendere*, or has been found guilty by a judge or jury, of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude, or has received probation without verdict, disposition lieu of trial or an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition in the disposition of felony charges, in the courts of this commonwealth, the United States or any other state, territory, possession or country. (02-12-07)

Rose Marie Yanko, license no. PN253544L, of Laflin, Luzerne County, was suspended for up to one year retroactive to Jan. 17, 2007, based upon her misdemeanor conviction under the Drug Act. (02-07-07)

Jayne Ruger, license no. RN255815L, of Swoyersville, Luzerne County, had dismissed an automatic suspension because any conviction under the Drug Act had been expunged. (02-21-06)

McKean County

Cheri M. Baker, license no. PN254895L, of Bradford, McKean County, was indefinitely suspended retroactive to Nov. 13, 2006, based on findings she is unable to practice professional nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental or physical illness or condition or physiological or psychological dependence upon alcohol, hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. (01-09-07)

Monica K. Yonker, license no. PN070489L, of Eldred, McKean County, was indefinitely suspended based upon her failure to submit to a mental and physical examination. (02-21-07)

Montgomery County

Pamela L. Engstrom, license no. RN288332L, of Royersford, Montgomery County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Jan. 19, 2006, based on her violation of the terms of her Voluntary Recovery Program Consent Agreement of the Professional Health Monitoring Program. (12-28-06)

Christine A. McLaughlin, license no. RN293712L, of Royersford, Montgomery County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Nov. 14, 2006, based on findings that she is unable to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of addiction to alcohol or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. (12-29-06)

Valerie Hildebrand Keebler, license no. RN303294L, of Norristown, Montgomery County, was suspended for at least three years, retroactive to Feb. 13, 2004, based on findings she violated the terms and conditions of the Voluntary Recovery Program consent agreement and order. (01-10-07)

Jodie Perri, license no. RN313545L, of Huntingdon Valley, Montgomery County, had her professional nursing license revoked based on findings that she violated a board order by practicing nursing while her license was suspended and committed fraud and deceit in the practice of nursing by holding herself out as a registered nurse and altering a licensure document in order to secure employment. (01-10-07)

Montour County

Cynthia M. Gaylor a/k/a Cynthia Whitley, Cynthia Compton, license no. RN540332L, of Danville, Montour County, had her license suspended for a period to run concurrently with her criminal probation, stayed in favor of probation, based on findings she was convicted of felony offenses and crimes of moral turpitude in a court of this commonwealth. (01-11-07)

Philadelphia County

Thomas S. Conrey, license no. RN335300L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Nov. 13, 2006, based on his violation of the terms of his Voluntary Recovery Program Consent Agreement of the Professional Health Monitoring Program. (01-11-07)

Karen A. Smith, license no. RN503897L of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was suspended for no less than five years, immediately stayed in favor of no less than five years of probation. Smith is unable to practice professional nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of physiological or psychological dependence upon alcohol. (02-12-07)

Kevin T. Lofton, Sr., license no. RN523767L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was suspended by the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas on Feb. 6, 2007. The court issued the suspension, which was effective immediately, under section 4355 of the Domestic Relations Code. (02-15-07)

Julie M. Reid, license no. PN104465L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County was suspended for one year and assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty based upon her criminal conviction. The entire period of suspension was stayed in favor of probation. (02-22-07)

Venango County

Melissa Hawk Hogue, license no. PN105608L, of Oil City, Venango County, had her license indefinitely suspended until such time as her civil penalty of \$525 is paid in full. Hogue violated a disciplinary order of the board by not paying the civil penalty. (01-11-07)

Washington County

Lori Ann Bowers, license no. PN253580L, of McDonald, Washington and Allegheny Counties, had her license automatically suspended. Bowers pled guilty to one count of intentional possession of controlled substances by persons not registered, a misdemeanor violation under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act. (01-23-07)

Wayne County

Elizabeth R. Chakiris, license no. RN228871L of Lake Ariel, Wayne County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than four years, retroactive to Oct, 10, 2006. Chakiris is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental incompetence. (02-12-06)

Westmoreland County

Martina Kaufman, license no. RN242639L, of Ruffsedale, Westmoreland County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than three years and six months, with the first six months to be served as active suspension with credit given since Kaufman's suspension of Oct. 5, 2006, and with the suspension to end on April 5, 2007, at which time the remaining suspension shall be immediately stayed in favor of no less than thirty-six months of probation, subject to terms and conditions. Kaufman is unable to practice professional nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental or physical illness or condition or physiological or psychological dependence upon alcohol, hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination and in has violated a disciplinary order of the board. (02-12-07)

Diane McCoy Robb, license no. RN-310270-L, of Latrobe, Westmoreland County, was indefinitely suspended, based upon her failure to submit to a mental and physical examination. (02-22-07)

York County

Joan Sakulich Rowlands, license no. PN096452L, of York, York County, was suspended for at least three years, retroactive to Nov. 13, 2006. Rowlands violated an agreement by which disciplinary action was deferred while she participated in a board-approved treatment program. (01-03-07)

Kathy M. Branthafer, unlicensed, of York, York County, was ordered to immediately cease and desist from the practice of practical nursing in Pennsylvania, from using the letters "LPN" or "PN" or a designation tending to imply that she is a practical nurse, and was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty. Branthafer practiced nursing without a valid current license and used the letters "PN" and/or "LPN" or a designation tending to imply that she is a practical nurse or a licensed practical nurse. (01-09-07)

Patrick M. Graff, license no. RN503131L, of Seven Valleys, York County, was suspended for no less than three years, retroactive to Nov. 14, 2006, based on his violation of the terms of his Voluntary Recovery Program Consent Agreement of the Professional Health Monitoring Program. (01-11-07)

Out of State

Susan L. Dobzanski, license no. RN349543L, of Franklinville, N.J., was indefinitely suspended retroactive to Nov. 13, 2006, based on findings she is unable to practice professional nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental or physical illness or condition or physiological or psychological dependence upon alcohol, hallucinogenic or narcotic drugs or other drugs which tend to impair judgment or coordination. (01-09-07)

Ramona L. Haines, license no. RN355960L, of Marlton, N.J., had her license to practice professional nursing indefinitely suspended based on findings she had disciplinary action taken against her license by the proper licensing authority in another state. (01-09-07)

Norma Sudaric Harpish, license no. RN255646L, of Colliers, W. Va., had her license to practice professional nursing indefinitely suspended, immediately stayed in favor of probation for at least one year from the reactivation of her license. Harpish pled guilty to one felony count of criminal attempt by writing a prescription for herself for Adipex, a Schedule IV controlled substance. (01-09-07)

Terrance E. Brown, license no. PN105102L, of Weshampton, N.J., was suspended by the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas on Feb. 6, 2007. The court issued the suspension, which was effective immediately, under section 4355 of the Domestic Relations Code. (02-15-07)

###

*A complete list of sanctions is available online at
www.state.pa.us
Keyword: licensing disciplinary actions.*

###