

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,

PETITIONER,

v.

CASE NO. 2013-11674

CHRISTINE MARIE ROUTSON, R.N.,

RESPONDENT.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, Petitioner, Department of Health, by and through its undersigned counsel, and files this Administrative Complaint before the Board of Nursing against Respondent, Christine Marie Routson, R.N., and in support thereof alleges:

1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating the practice of nursing pursuant to Section 20.43, Florida Statutes; Chapter 456, Florida Statutes; and Chapter 464, Florida Statutes.

2. At all times material to this Complaint, Respondent was a licensed registered nurse (R.N) within the state of Florida, having been issued license number RN 9215432.

3. Respondent's address of record is 2268 S.E. Shady Circle, Arcadia, Florida 34266.

4. On or about March 5, 2009, in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for Desoto County, Florida, Respondent entered a plea of no contest to one count of cruelty to animals, a first degree misdemeanor in violation of Section 828.12(1), Florida Statutes, and entered a plea of guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, first degree misdemeanors in violation of Section 828.12(1), Florida Statutes.

5. Respondent failed to report the pleas of no contest and guilty to the Board of Nursing, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date Respondent entered the plea.

COUNT ONE

6. Petitioner realleges and incorporates paragraphs one (1) through five (5), as if fully set forth herein.

7. Section 456.072(1)(c), Florida Statutes (2008), provides that being convicted or found guilty of, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which relates to the practice of, or the ability to practice, a licensee's profession, is grounds for discipline.

8. Respondent is licensed pursuant to Chapter 464, Florida Statutes, and is a health care practitioner as defined in Section 456.001(4), Florida Statutes (2008).

9. A registered nurse is one of a handful of categories of licensed professionals that provide direct patient care, in many instances, to the elderly or those with long-term infirmities, often in patient's homes or in nursing home settings. As such, entering a plea of no contest to one count of cruelty to animals and a plea of guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, directly relates to the practice of nursing or the ability to practice nursing and violates the trust and confidence invested by the Legislature in these licensees.

10. On or about March 5, 2009, in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for Desoto County, Florida, Respondent entered a plea of no contest to one count of cruelty to animals, a first degree misdemeanor in violation of Section 828.12(1), Florida Statutes, and entered a plea of guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, first degree misdemeanors in violation of Section 828.12(1), Florida Statutes.

11. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated Section 456.072(1)(c), Florida Statutes (2008), being convicted or found guilty of,

or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction which relates to the practice of, or the ability to practice, a licensee's profession.

COUNT TWO

12. Petitioner realleges and incorporates paragraphs one (1) through five (5), as if fully set forth herein.

13. Section 456.072(1)(x), Florida Statutes (2008), provides that failing to report to the board, or the department if there is no board, in writing within thirty (30) days after the licensee has been convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction constitutes grounds for discipline.

14. Respondent is licensed pursuant to Chapter 464, Florida Statutes, and is a health care practitioner as defined in Section 456.001(4), Florida Statutes (2008).

15. Respondent failed to report to the Board, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date Respondent entered pleas of no contest and guilty to cruelty to animals.

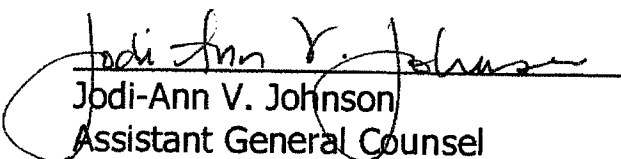
16. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated Section 456.072(1)(x), Florida Statutes (2008), failing to report to the board in

writing within thirty (30) days after the licensee has been convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction.

WHEREFORE, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the Board of Nursing enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties: permanent revocation or suspension of Respondent's license, restriction of practice, imposition of an administrative fine, issuance of a reprimand, placement of the Respondent on probation, corrective action, refund of fees billed or collected, remedial education and/or any other relief that the Board deems appropriate.

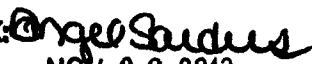
SIGNED this 7th day of November, 2013.

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health


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FILED

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPUTY CLERK

CLERK: 

DATE: NOV 08 2013

/JVJ

PCP: November 7, 2013

PCP Members: Kirkpatrick and Herrera

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Respondent has the right to request a hearing to be conducted in accordance with Section 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, to be represented by counsel or other qualified representative, to present evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses and to have subpoena and subpoena duces tecum issued on his or her behalf if a hearing is requested.

NOTICE REGARDING ASSESSMENT OF COSTS

Respondent is placed on notice that Petitioner has incurred costs related to the investigation and prosecution of this matter. Pursuant to Section 456.072(4), Florida Statutes, the Board shall assess costs related to the investigation and prosecution of a disciplinary matter, which may include attorney hours and costs, on the Respondent in addition to any other discipline imposed.