

Before the
N.H. Board of Medicine
Concord, NH 03301

In the Matter of :

Michelle Putnam, R.C.P.
(Misconduct Allegations)

Docket No. 97-003

RECOMMENDED DECISION

By: Maureen P. Knepp, PA-C, *Presiding Officer*

The Board of Medicine ("the Board") commenced this proceeding on March 5, 1997 to determine whether disciplinary sanctions should be imposed under RSA 326-E:9 for fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure renewal of a license to practice respiratory care. Michelle Putnam, R.C.P. ("the licensee") tendered check #372 to the board 1995 for renewal of her license which was returned for insufficient funds. She was notified of her default and requested to make restitution by letter and later by telephone. She did not do so. The above referenced Hearing Officer was appointed by the Board President to take evidence in this case and to prepare this recommended decision pursuant to Med 207.04 of the Board's rules.

The licensee appeared before the hearing officer on April 28, 1997 and presented testimony which does not contradict in any material fashion the allegations set forth in the Board's "Order to Show Cause." It is the conclusion of the hearing officer that the licensee did procure renewal of her license by fraud and deceit pursuant to RSA 326-E:9 in that she submitted checks which were returned

for insufficient funds and when notified of the deficiencies did not make restitution of those funds. The licensee presented testimony that she did not receive the Board's correspondence. It is the opinion of the hearing officer that the testimony provides sufficient basis to conclude that the licensee's conduct did not constitute an intention to defraud the board.

It is therefore the recommendation of the hearing officer that the licensee be required to make restitution to the Board for the outstanding renewal fee, collection fee and banking charge totaling \$65.00. It is further recommended that the licensee be assessed a fine of \$100.00 for renewal in 1995 which was procured by insufficient funds. The hearing officer further recommends that Michelle Putnam's license to practice respiratory care be suspended until such time as she pays the required fine and restitution amounts. Finally, the licensee should be required to make payments for all future renewals in either cash, certified check or money order.

This decision is a recommended, or initial, decision prepared under Med 207.04 and will become final on the 41st day after which it is served unless exceptions are filed by a party or the board elects to take action on its own motion.

BY ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING OFFICER

Dated: 4/29/97



Karen Lamoureux,
Administrator