

April 27, 2012

***CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED***

Joseph P. Ruello, R.P.A.

REDACTED

Re: License No. 003469

Dear Mr. Ruello:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 12-84. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect May 4, 2012.

Please direct any questions to: Board for Professional Medical Conduct, 90 Church Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10007-2919, telephone # 212-417-4445.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.  
Executive Secretary  
Board for Professional Medical Conduct

Enclosure

cc: Robert DePalma, Esq.  
Law Office of Robert DePalma, P.C.  
358 St. Mark's Place, Suite 303  
Staten Island, NY 10301

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IN THE MATTER  
OF  
JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A.

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CONSENT  
ORDER

Upon the application of JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A., (Respondent), in the attached Consent Agreement, that is made a part of this Consent Order, it is

ORDERED, that the Consent Agreement, and its terms, are adopted and it is further

ORDERED, that this Consent Order shall be effective upon issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of this Consent Order, either by first class mail to Respondent at the address in the attached Consent Agreement or by certified mail to Respondent's attorney, or upon facsimile or email transmission to Respondent or Respondent's attorney, whichever is first.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: 4/26/2012

REDACTED

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KENDRICK A. SEARS, M.D.  
Chair  
State Board for Professional  
Medical Conduct

STATE OF NEW YORK: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

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IN THE MATTER

CONSENT

OF

AGREEMENT

JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A.  
CO-10-10-6606-A

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JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A., (Respondent), representing that all of the following statements are true, deposes and says:

That on or about May 27, 1988, I was licensed to practice medicine as a physician assistant in the State of New York and issued license number 003469 by the New York State Education Department.

My current address is REDACTED, and I will advise the Director (Director) of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) of any change of my address within thirty (30) days, thereof.

I understand that the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) has charged me with three (3) Specifications of professional misconduct.

A copy of the Statement of Charges, marked as Exhibit A, is attached to and part of this Consent Agreement.

I do not contest the three (3) Specifications, and agree to the following sanction:

Three (3) years suspension of my license to practice as a physician assistant, stayed;

Pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a(9), I shall be placed on probation for a period of three (3) years, subject to the terms set forth in attached Exhibit B, and any extension and/or modifications, thereto.

I agree, further, that the Consent Order shall impose the following conditions:

That Respondent shall remain in continuous compliance with all requirements of New York Education Law § 6502 including, but not limited to, the requirements that a licensee shall register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a licensee shall pay

all registration fees. Respondent shall not exercise the option provided in New York Education Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration and payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the effective date of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State; and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the OPMC in its administration and enforcement of the Consent Order and in its investigations of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shall respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with this Consent Agreement. Respondent shall meet with a person designated by the Director, OPMC, as directed. Respondent shall respond promptly and provide all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take effect upon the Board's issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of the Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York Education Law § 6530(29).

I agree that, if I am charged with professional misconduct in future, this Consent Agreement and the Consent Order shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Board does not adopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind me or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Board's denial shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to New York Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shall issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that the Consent Order shall take effect upon its issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail, or upon facsimile or email transmission to me or my attorney, whichever is first. The Consent Order, this Consent Agreement, and all attached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only patient identities, if any, redacted. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department of Health website.

I stipulate that the proposed sanction and Consent Order are authorized by New York Public Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board and OPMC have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the various risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, administratively and/or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the attorney for the Department, the Director, OPMC, and the Chair of the Board each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed Consent Agreement and Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

AFFIRMED:

DATED:

April 17, 2012.

REDACTED

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JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A.  
Respondent

The undersigned agree to Respondent's attached Consent Agreement and to its proposed penalty, terms and conditions.

DATE: April 17, 2012

REDACTED  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT DEPALMA, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent

DATE: April 20, 2012

REDACTED  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL G. BASS  
Assistant Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 4/25/12

REDACTED  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEITH W. SERVIS  
Director  
Office of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

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IN THE MATTER  
OF  
JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A.  
CO-10-10-6606-A

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STATEMENT  
OF  
CHARGES

JOSEPH PHILIP RUELLO, R.P.A., the Respondent, was authorized to practice as a physician assistant in New York state on or about May 27, 1988, by the issuance of license number 003469 by the New York State Education Department.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

A. As the result of an October 15, 2009, arrest, Respondent pled guilty to Attempted Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor, on or about May 10, 2010, in the Criminal Court of the City of New York, County of Richmond, and was sentenced, inter alia, to a one (1) year conditional discharge.

B. As the result of a December 28, 2009, arrest, Respondent pled guilty to Attempted Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor, on or about May 10, 2010, in the Criminal Court of the City of New York, County of Richmond, and was sentenced, inter alia, to a one (1) year conditional discharge.

C. On or about September 13, 2011, in the Criminal Court of the City of New York, County of Richmond, Respondent pled guilty to Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor, and was sentenced, inter alia, to a one (1) year conditional discharge and twenty (20) days of community service.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**FIRST THROUGH THIRD SPECIFICATIONS**

Respondent violated New York Education Law Section 6530(9)(a)(i) by being convicted of committing an act constituting a crime under New York state law, in that Petitioner charges:

1. The facts in Paragraph A.



2. The facts in Paragraph B.
3. The facts in Paragraph C.

DATED: *February 23*, 2012  
Albany, New York

REDACTED

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PETER D. VAN BUREN  
Deputy Counsel  
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

**EXHIBIT B**  
**Terms of Probation**

1. Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct and governing law. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violation of probation and may subject Respondent to an action pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230(19).
2. Respondent shall maintain active registration of Respondent's license (except during periods of actual suspension) with the New York State Education Department, Division of Professional Licensing Services, and shall pay all registration fees.
3. Respondent shall provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street Suite 303, Troy, New York 12180-2299 with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current: a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; all current and past affiliations and/or privileges, with hospitals, institutions, facilities, medical practices, and managed care organizations, and/or applications for such affiliations, and/or privileges; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions and/or disciplinary actions by any local, state or federal agency, institution or facility. Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any additions to or changes in the required information.
4. Respondent shall cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the request of the Director, OPMC, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
5. Respondent's failure to pay any monetary penalty by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all provisions of law relating to debt collection by New York State, including but not limited to: the imposition of interest, late payment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tax Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
6. The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in active medical practice in New York State for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director, OPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period or more. Respondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
7. The Director, OPMC, may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.

8. Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.
9. Respondent shall maintain complete and legible medical records that accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients and contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.
10. Respondent shall engage and continue in therapy with a treating health care professional (hereafter "Therapist"). Respondent shall cause the Therapist to submit a proposed treatment plan and quarterly reports to OPMC certifying whether Respondent is in compliance with the treatment plan. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Therapist. The Therapist shall report to OPMC immediately if Respondent leaves treatment against medical advice or displays any symptoms of a suspected or actual relapse.
11. At the direction of the Director of OPMC, Respondent shall submit to evaluations by a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed mental health practitioner or other health care professional or program designated by the Director (hereafter "Evaluator.") Respondent shall provide the Evaluator with a copy of this Order and copies of all previous treatment records. OPMC, at its discretion, may provide information or documentation from its investigative files concerning Respondent to Respondent's Evaluator. The Evaluator shall report to the Director regarding Respondent's condition and fitness or incapacity to practice medicine. Respondent shall comply with all treatment recommendations based upon the evaluation; failure to comply with such treatment recommendations shall constitute professional misconduct.
12. Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, and shall bear all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncompliance with, or a violation of, these terms, the Director, OPMC, and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding, and/or any other such proceeding authorized by law, against Respondent.