

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 638669 §
issued to SARAH JANE ERICKSON § ORDER

I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.
Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Registered Nurse License Number 638669 hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(1) & (10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on August 4, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from El Centro College, Dallas, Texas on December 1, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 4, 1997.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

03/97 - 10/03	RN	Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation Dallas, Texas
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Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

11/03 - 02/06	Unknown	
03/06 - 10/06	RN	Mesquite Community Hospital Mesquite, Texas
11/06 - Present	Unknown	

6. On December 28, 2007, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing which required her to participate in and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated December 28, 2007 is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
7. On or about June 3, 2010, Respondent become non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on December 28, 2007. Non-compliance is the result of her failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peers Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) contract in that she failed to meet the contract's return to work agreement. Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Order dated December 28, 2007, states:

"(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term."

On or about June 3, 2010, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred back to the Board.

8. Regarding the conduct outlined in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she feels she complied with the contract agreement in the following ways:
 - Sought employment
 - Went to multiple interviews
 - Sent in required TPAPN paperwork
 - Kept up CEU's and CPR
 - Paid TPAPN and license renewal fees
 - Kept monthly appointments with psychiatrist / nurse practitioner
 - Took medication as prescribed
 - Frequent phone calls to advocate
 - Phone calls regarding progress to Case Manager
 - Obtained assistance and counseling from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitation Services
 - Completed 2 of 3 RN Refresher classes at El Centro College.

Respondent states that by doing the above, she was able to get job offers but was unable to gain TPAPN approval of these offers. Respondent states that she enrolled in a refresher course at the advice of a DARS counselor and completed the first two classes while she looked for a job but was unable to take the third class, which was clinical, because she was told that the hospital did not have the staffing to accommodate a TPAPN Nurse. She states that her case manager made it mandatory that she complete a clinical before finding a job. Respondent states that she did not take the agreement lightly. She states that due to being healthier and having had time to heal and rebuild her life, Respondent feels that she can return to nursing and be productive. She is willing to cooperate with the Texas Board of Nursing in any way that she can. She appeals to the Board to return her to TPAPN, or monitor or discipline her in an alternative way so that she can return to nursing in order to provide for herself and her daughter in her chosen profession.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(1) & (10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9) & (11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 638669, heretofore issued to SARAH JANE ERICKSON, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable

to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license(s) is/are encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order and prior to practicing as a professional nurse, successfully complete a nursing refresher course. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course's content shall include: 1) the role of the nurse; 2) a review of the nursing process to include assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation; 3) pharmacology review; 4) medication administration review for all standard routes of administration; 5) documentation, quality assurance and legal implications for nursing practice; and 6) current CPR certification. This course shall include a minimum of the clinical components, providing direct patient care supervised by another registered nurse, as stated on the Board's website, <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/olv/pdfs/6mth-rn.pdf>. Upon receipt of verification that RESPONDENT has enrolled in a nursing refresher course, the RESPONDENT SHALL apply for a "Six-Month Clinical Permit" for the limited purpose of completing the course. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT, in any way, attempt to use this limited permit for any purpose other than attending this course. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to notify the Board of RESPONDENT'S successful completion on the Verification of Course Completion form, available from the Board at

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/pdfs/i17.pdf>. Upon receipt of the Verification of Course Completion form and the limited permit, the Board will then issue RESPONDENT a license to practice professional nursing. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:* <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A

NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Respondent is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the stipulation period, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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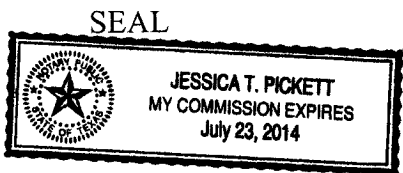
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 17th day of August, 2010.

Sarah Jane Erickson
SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of August, 2010.



Jessica T. Pickett
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 17th day of August, 2010, by SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Registered Nurse License Number 638669, and said Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of September, 2010.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board



BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse	§	AGREED
License Number 638669	§	
issued to SARAH JANE ERICKSON	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Registered Nurse License Number 638669, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on November 27, 2007, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license.
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from El Centro College, Dallas, Texas, on December 1, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 4, 1997.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

March 1997 - October 2003	RN Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation Dallas, Texas
November 2003 - February 2006	Unknown
March 2006 - October 2006	RN Mesquite Community Hospital Mesquite, Texas
November 2006 - Present	Unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for five (5) years and seven (7) months.

7. On or about October 12, 2002 and October 13, 2002, while employed with Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to administer Coumadin 3mg to Patient Medical Record Number 131415 per physician's orders. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to administer medications as ordered by the physician could have resulted in nonefficacious treatment.

8. On or about October 12, 2002 and October 13, 2002, while employed with Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, Dallas, Texas, Respondent withdrew Pepcid, Cardura, Colace, Mylicon, Seroquel, Humibid LA, Ambien, Peridex, Nystatin, Cleocin, Deseryl and Boost-All, for patients but failed to accurately and/or completely document the administration of said medications in patients' medical records. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose.

9. On or about October 12, 2002 and October 13, 2002, while employed with Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, Dallas, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that she was observed by co-workers to be shaking and jittery. She was also observed to be angry and emotional, including crying in front of patients. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.

10. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
11. In a letter to the Board, received on April 10, 2007, Respondent states that she was hospitalized at Green Oaks Hospital, Dallas, Texas, and Timberlawn Hospital, Dallas, Texas. Respondent admits that she suffers from Bipolar Disorder and is requesting that the Board allow her to return to the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN).
12. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9) was significantly influenced by Respondent's impairment by mental illness.
13. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Section 301.452(b)(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(3), (4) & (12).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 638669, heretofore issued to SARAH JANE ERICKSON, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the

Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to SARAH JANE ERICKSON, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Texas Board of Nursing.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including revocation of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

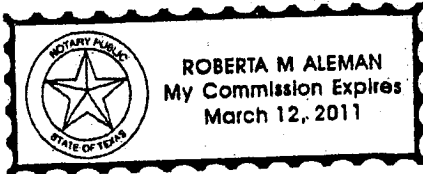
Signed this 22 day of December, 2007.

Sarah Jane Erickson
SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of December, 2007.

SEAL

R. Aleman
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 22nd day of December, 2007, by SARAH JANE ERICKSON, Registered Nurse License Number 638669, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 28th day of December, 2007.



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board