



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 624337 §
issued to CLAIRE THERESE SPIRES § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the B considered the matter of CLAIRE THERESE SPIRES, Registered Nurse License Number 624337, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9),(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on March 22, 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.
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 a Diploma in Nursing from Canadore College, North Bay, Ontario Canada, on May 1, 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on December 21, 1995.

5. Respondent's complete professional employment history includes:

01/1996-01/1997	RN	Val Verde Medical Center Del Rio, Texas
02/1997-06/06	RN	Detar Hospital Victoria, Texas
05/06-12/07	RN	Gulf Coast Medical Center Wharton, Texas
12/07-Present	Not Working in Nursing	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as the Director of Acute Care with Gulf Coast Medical Center, Wharton, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately one (1) year and seven (7) months.
7. On or about December 19, 2007, while employed as Director of Acute Care/ Registered Nurse with Gulf Coast Medical Center, Wharton, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she submitted a specimen for a drug screen that produced a positive result for alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
8. On or about December 19, 2007, while employed as Director of Acute Care/ Registered Nurse with Gulf Coast Medical Center, Wharton, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she was diagnosed with a severe seizure disorder. Additionally, Respondent has not been released from her physician to return to work or to drive. Respondent's diagnosis 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.
9. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.

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)(9),(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)&(B),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(D)&(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 624337, heretofore issued to CLAIRE THERESE SPIRES, 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 LIMITED LICENSE 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 is 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, 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>.*

(2) While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT provide direct patient care. For the purposes of this Order, direct patient care involves a personal relationship between the Nurse and the client, and includes, but is not limited to: teaching, counseling, assessing the client's needs and strengths, and providing skilled nursing care.

(3) SHOULD RESPONDENT desire to return to a clinical practice setting, which would require her to provide direct patient care, RESPONDENT SHALL petition the Board for such approval.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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. 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 9 day of April, 2010.

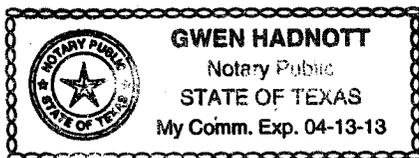
Claire Spires
CLAIRE THERESE SPIRES, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of April, 2010

SEAL

Gwen Hadnott

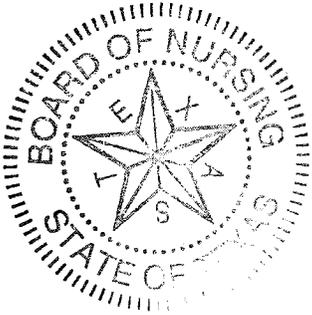
Notary Public in and for the State of TX Fort Bend City



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 9th day of April, 2010, by

CLAIRE THERESE SPIRES, License Number 624337, and said Order is final.

Effective this 11th day of May, 2010.



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