



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

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 186319 §  
issued to AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, Vocational License Number 186319, 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 September 22, 2009, 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from North Central Texas College, Gainesville, Texas, on August 8, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 24, 2002.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

10/02-5/03	LVN	Children's Medical Center Dallas, Texas
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Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

6/03-3/05	Unknown	
4/05-8/06	LVN (PRN)	Office of Dr. Stephen Schulman Denton, Texas
1/06-8/06	LVN	The Vintage Denton, Texas
9/06-10/06	LVN	Denton Good Samaritan Village Denton, Texas
11/06-10/08	Unknown	
11/08-6/09	LVN	Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health Howe, Texas
7/09-Present	Unknown	

- 6.. At the time of the initial incident in Findings of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed with Denton Good Samaritan Village, Denton, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately one (1) month.
7. On or about January 19, 2007, while employed with Denton Good Samaritan Village, Denton, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Temazepam, in that she produced a specimen for drug screening which resulted positive for Temazepam. Possession of Temazepam is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Temazepam 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. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states she's NOT GUILTY. She states she's never taken nor dispensed the drug Temazepam.

9. On or about January 31, 2007, while employed with Denton Good Samaritan Village, Denton, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Benzodiazepines, in that she produced a specimen for drug screening which resulted positive for Benzodiazepines. Possession of Benzodiazepines is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Benzodiazepines 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.
10. In response to Findings of Fact Number Nine (9), Respondent states she was under the care of Dr. Clayton and was being treated for major depression and severe anxiety. Respondent states she was prescribed Ativan. Respondent states since this screening she's faced many obstacles as well as undergone treatment for severe depression. She placed herself in a rehabilitation treatment program (A Better Tomorrow based in California).
11. On or about November 8, 2007, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Barbiturates(Butalbital), in that she produced a specimen for drug screening which resulted positive for Barbiturates(Butalbital). Possession of Barbiturates is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substance Act). The use of Butalbital 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.
12. In response to Findings of Fact Number Eleven (11), Respondent she was under the care of Dr. Rick Perry and was being prescribed Esgic Plus for migraines.
13. On or about December 19, 2008, Respondent plead "Guilty" to "Possession of a Controlled Substance" (Lesser offenses and Class A Misdemeanor offenses committed on March 24, 2008 & March 29, 2008 ) in the 158th District Court, Denton County, Texas, Case Number F-2008-2046-B. Respondent's adjudication of guilt was deferred and she was placed on Community Supervision for two (2) years and ordered to pay a fine.
14. In response to Findings of Fact Number Thirteen (13), Respondent states she did possess a controlled substance and plead GUILTY in court. She obtained them in late March 2008 and it lead to her awareness of a severe problem and addiction. She completed a 30 day treatment in California and continues treatment. (NA group, a sponsor, 12 Step program).

15. On or about May 6, 2009, Respondent submitted a Texas Online Renewal Document to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information in that she answered "No" to the following question:

"Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:

- A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
- B. been convicted of a felony?
- C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
- D. received deferred adjudication?
- E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
- F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?..."

On or about December 19, 2008, Respondent plead "Guilty" to "Possession of a Controlled Substance" (Lesser offenses and Class A Misdemeanor offenses committed on March 24, 2008 & March 29, 2008 ) in the 158th District Court, Denton County, Texas, Case Number F-2008-2046-B. Respondent's adjudication of guilt was deferred and she was placed on Community Supervision for two (2) years and ordered to pay a fine.

16. In response to Findings of Fact Number Fifteen (15), Respondent states she did attempt to renew her nursing license via internet and when she selected YES on the above questions she was redirected to a page with a #. Respondent called and spoke with a woman who verified everything, put her on hold and then returned stating her license had gone through and no other information was needed. Payment was charged to a credit card and accepted.
17. On or about June 1, 2009, while employed with Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health, Sherman, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice vocational nursing in that she exhibited impaired behavior while on duty including but not limited to, dilated eyes, having a hard time focusing, falling asleep at the table and appearing zoned out. 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.

18. On or about June 1, 2009, while employed with Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health, Sherman, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Baclofen and Xanax in that she submitted a specimen for drug screening which resulted positive for Baclofen and Xanax. Possession of Baclofen and Xanax is prohibited by Chapter 481 and 483 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act and Dangerous Drug Act). The use of Baclofen and Xanax 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.
19. On or about June 1, 2009, while employed with Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health, Sherman, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Baclofen, Klonopin, Xanax and money belonging to the patient and patient family members. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
20. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seventeen (17), Eighteen (18) and Nineteen (19), Respondent states she is prescribed Ativan and Flexeril under the care of Dr. Rick Perry and after calling the pharmacy, the pharmacist said both medications could show as a false/positive. There was never a mention of her inability to care for the patient, nor mention of misappropriation of money or belongings for the patient or the family. Respondent states she believes these allegations are false and she is being wrongfully accused for events that are not true.
21. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is June 1, 2009 as indicated in Finding of Fact Number Eighteen (18).
22. 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.
23. Charges were filed on June 17, 2009.
24. Charges were mailed to Respondent on June 19, 2009.

#### 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 a violation of Section 301.452(b)(3),(9),(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A) & (1)(B). and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(E),(4),(5),(6)(G),(6)(H),(6)(I),(8), (10)(A),(10)(D),(11)(B)&(13).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 186319, heretofore issued to AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 186319, previously issued to AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent completes a treatment program approved by the Board, provides documentation of successful completion, and has obtained twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety. Any relapse prior to the completion of the twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Permanent Certificate Number 186319 previously issued to AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, upon receipt of this Order, be immediately delivered to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate privilege, if any, to practice nursing in compact states.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this order the 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, upon verification of successful completion of the approved treatment and twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety as set out in this Order, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

(1) 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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>.*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of six hundred dollars (\$600). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of the suspension being stayed. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

(5) IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT be convicted of or receive a deferred order for the offense(s) as outlined in Finding of Fact Number Thirteen (13), said judicial action will result in further disciplinary action including Revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

**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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR THREE (3) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT**

**THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:**

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions 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.

(5) 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.

(6) For the first year of employment as a nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The 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) For the remainder of the probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or by a Licensed Vocational 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.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(11) 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 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) months for three (3) years of employment as a nurse.

(12) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. **In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis is the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines  
Barbiturates

Meperidine  
Methadone

Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT's place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

(14) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE her probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board. The reports shall indicate the RESPONDENT's compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until RESPONDENT is released from probation.

(15) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board.

RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT's license and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for 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. 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 10 day of Dec, 2009.

Ami Spindle  
AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of December, 2009.

SEAL

Rebecca Durrus  
Notary Public in and for the State of 02/11/2012

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 10th day of December, 2009, by AMI MICHELLE SPINDLE, Vocational Nurse License Number 186319, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23rd day of March, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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