BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

****

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse	§	AGREED
License Number 185186	§	
issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY	§	ORDER

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
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.
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the l considered the matter of BETH ALISON KIRBY, Vocational License Number 185186, herei 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 February 11, 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 Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas on May 24, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on August 1, 2002.

5. Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about December 22, 2006, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas which require 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 22, 2006, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.

7. On or about April 28, 2007, Respondent became non-compliant with the terms of the Agreed Order issued to her by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas on December 22, 2006. Non-compliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Order which reads, in pertinent part: "RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term." On or about April 28, 2007, Respondent failed to comply with drug testing and failed to provide documentation of recommended treatment required by TPAPN .

7. Respondent states she became non-compliant on May 24, 2007. Respondent states she was involved in an abusive relationship which led to her loss of self-worth, self-esteem and independence. On July 8, 2007, she went thru a window and received three severe lateral lacerations to her right upper extremity. Respondent states she has relearned how to do everything left handed. Respondent states she doesn't blame her husband for everything, for she was the one that chose to stay, but she is now in the process of a divorce. Respondent states she's putting her life back on track and trying to salvage all she has damaged.

8. 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.

9. Formal Charges were filed on January 15, 2009.

10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on January 21, 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 violationof 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 185186, heretofore issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY, 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 185186, previously issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY, 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 185186 previously issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY, 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 <u>not</u> 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) contact 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/about/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.

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 REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) 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.

(12) 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.

(13) 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.

(14) 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	Meperidine
Barbiturates	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 will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

(15) 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 professional 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 probation period, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy.

(16) 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

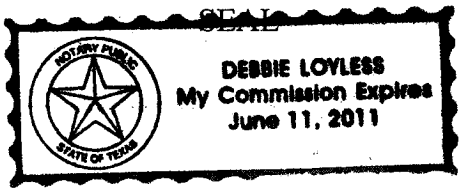
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and 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 17 day of March, 2009.

BETH ALISON KIRBY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of March, 2009.

SEAL



Debbie Loyless

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 March, 2009, by BETH ALISON KIRBY, Vocational Nurse License Number 185186, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23rd day of April, 2009.

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

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse	§	
License Number 185186	§	AGREED
issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY	§	ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BETH ALISON KIRBY, Vocational Nurse License Number 185186, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 302.402(a)(10) and Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on November 11, 2006, 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

4. Respondent completed a Vocational Nurse Program at Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas, on May 24, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on August 1, 2002.

5. Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about November 14, 2003, Respondent plead guilty to the offense of "Assault Causing Bodily Injury," a Class A Misdemeanor, in the County Court at Law No. 1, Randall County, Texas, Cause No. 2003-1220-L. Respondent's guilty plea was deferred and Respondent was placed on Community Supervision for a period of one (1) year, assessed a five hundred dollar ($500.00) fine, and court costs in the amount of two hundred thirty-three dollars ($233.00).

7. On or about March 7, 2004, Respondent was arrested by the Amarillo Police Department, Amarillo, Texas, for the offense of "Public Intoxication," which was a violation of her probation.

8. On September 20, 2004, Respondent was convicted of "Assault Causing Bodily Injury," a Class A Misdemeanor, after violating the terms of her Community Supervision issued on November 14, 2003, in the County Court at Law No. 1, Randall County, Texas, Cause No. 2003-1220-L. Respondent was sentenced to forty-five (45) days confinement in the Randall County Jail, assessed a five hundred dollar ($500.00) fine, and court costs in the amount of two hundred thirty-three dollars ($233.00).

9. On or about October 10, 2006, Respondent under went a forensic psychological evaluation, performed by Dr. Richard Lee Wall, Ph.D., H.S.P. Dr. Wall states that Respondent's insight is limited regarding her responsibility for alcohol abuse and aggressiveness in the two incidents above, and that Respondent tends to minimize her past alcohol abuse, and the anger that appears to be released when she is under the influence. Dr. Wall further states that Respondent minimizes her alcohol use/abuse and the question is raised regarding the extent of her involvement with alcohol abuse. Dr. Wall concludes that the evaluation is strongly indicative that Respondent has a significant substance abuse problem and is in need of substance abuse rehabilitation. On or about October 10, 2006, Respondent underwent a polygraph examination which was administered by Doug Sutton, a licensed polygraph examiner, and disclosed additional occasions of substance abuse and violent outbursts resulting in physical injury to herself.

10. 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.

11. 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 violation of Section 302.402(a)(10) and Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §239.11(28)&(29)(A)(i)&(iv).

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 185186, heretofore issued to BETH ALISON KIRBY, including revocation of Respondent's vocational license to practice 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):

(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 three hundred fifty dollars ($350) payable to TPAPN.

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

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

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse

Examiners 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 vocational 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 State of Texas 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 vocational 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 Board of Nurse Examiners, 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 14 day of December, 2006.

BETH ALISON KIRBY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14 day of December, 2006.

SEAL

KARLA ELAINE PACE
NOTARY PUBLIC,
STATE OF TEXAS
My Commission Expires 03-18-2008

Karla Elaine Pace

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 14th day of December, 2006, by BETH ALISON KIRBY, Vocational Nurse License Number 185186, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 22nd day of December, 2006.

Katherine A. Thomas

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