



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 BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of
MATTHEW RYAN GRAY
PETITIONER for Eligibility for
Licensure

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ORDER OF
CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Application for Licensure by Examination and supporting documents filed by MATTHEW RYAN GRAY, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and PETITIONER's Certificate contained herein. Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may have violated Section 301.452(b)(3), Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 21, 2006, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about November 14, 2005, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
2. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
3. Petitioner is currently enrolled in Fort Sam Houston Army Practical Nurse Course, Fort Gordon, Georgia, with an anticipated graduation date of June 2006.
4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to Question Number Two (2), which reads as follows: *"Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudication with or without prejudice of guilt."*

5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
 - A. On March 6, 1996, Petitioner was arrested for the misdemeanor offense of Burglary of a Vehicle in Hebbbronville, Texas and was referred to the Juvenile Probation Department.
 - B. On August 22, 2000, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Court at Law No. 2/3 of Bell County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to three (3) days confinement and assessed a fine and court costs in the amount of one thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents (\$1,227.25).
 - C. On August 23, 2002, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While License Suspended in the County Court at Law of Weatherford, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to one (1) year probation.
 - D. On March 16, 2004, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Criminal Court No. 4 of Denton, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of nolo contendere and was sentenced to two (2) years probation.
 - E. On January 25, 2004, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While License Suspended in the County Court at Law of Weatherford, Texas.
6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
7. Petitioner presented evidence of current fitness to practice vocational nursing.
8. The Board received letters of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
 - A letter of reference dated October 14, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Stacy L. Little, SFC, USA, Practical Nurse Course Instructor, Department of the Army, Fort Gordon, Georgia.
 - A letter of reference dated November 2, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Deborah K. Betts, Colonel, Practical Nurse Course Instructor, Department of the Army, Fort Gordon, Georgia.
9. The safety of patients and the public requires that all persons licensed to practice nursing be fit, sober, and able to consistently practice nursing in autonomous roles under demanding and stressful conditions.
10. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's substance abuse and subsequent rehabilitation as provided in §213.29, 22 Texas Administrative Code.

11. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
12. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Petition for Declaratory Order, his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with the Board's character requirements in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27.
13. On February 21, 2006, the Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.
14. Petitioner'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. The Board of Nurse Examiners has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
2. Petitioner has submitted a petition in compliance with Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code.
3. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452, Texas Occupations Code.
4. The Board of Nurse Examiners may license an individual who has a history of substance abuse, after consideration of the criteria set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.29, the Board determines the Petitioner does not currently pose a direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
5. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform his conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
6. The Board may, in its discretion, order a Petitioner, upon initial licensure as a vocational 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

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon meeting the requirements for graduation and payment of any required fees, MATTHEW RYAN GRAY, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN[®] Examination). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse in the State of Texas.

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon attaining a passing grade on the NCLEX-PN[®], shall be issued a license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IN ADDITION, IT IS THEREFORE FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon initial licensure, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for PETITIONER to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within forty-five (45) days of initial licensure, 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 (\$350.00) payable to TPAPN.

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

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

(4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse Examiners of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Petitioner's license is encumbered by this Order, Petitioner 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 Petitioner wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER 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 a PETITIONER's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

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PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all relevant information in conformity with Rule 213.29 at Texas Administrative Code. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my Petition for Declaratory Order, has been in conformity with the Board's professional character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past behavior in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my petition, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.452 (a),(b) and (c), Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rules 213.27, 213.28, and 213.29 at 22 Texas Administrative Code. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Graduate Vocational Nurse Permit to practice. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to registering for the NCLEX-PN® Examination or accepting any permit or license from the Board of Nurse Examiners.

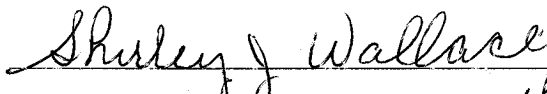
I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Executive Director of the Board of Nurse Examiners enter this Order.

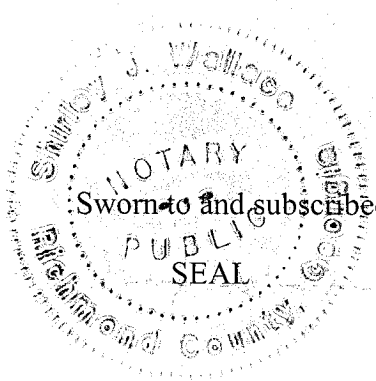
Signed this 16 day of June, 2006.


MATTHEW RYAN GRAY, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of June, 2006

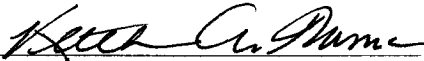

Notary Public in and for the State of Georgia

Shirley J. Wallace
Notary Public, Richmond Co., Georgia
My Commission Expires July 16, 2007



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 16th day of June, 2006, by MATTHEW RYAN GRAY, PETITIONER, for Petition for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 3rd day of July, 2006.



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