

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history (continued):

December 1999 - December 2000	Surgery Nurse North Austin Hospital Austin, Texas
December 2000 - October 2003	Phone Triage Nurse Austin Family Clinic Austin, Texas
2000 - March 2004	Agency Nurse Care Staff Austin, Texas
October 2003 - March 2004	Cardiac Unit South Austin Hospital Austin, Texas
March 2004 - January 2007	Charge Nurse Hobbs Healthcare Center Hobbs, New Mexico
January 2007 - Present	Rehab Nurse/Case Manager Good Samaritan Society Hobbs, New Mexico

6. On or about October 11, 2006, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to POSS CS PG 1: 4 GRAMS TO 200 GRAMS, (a 2nd Degree Felony offense committed on July 28, 2006), in the 144th Judicial District Court, Bexar County, Texas, under Cause No. 2006CR7335W. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of four (4) years. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$53, a fine and court costs. Respondent was also ordered to complete the Outpatient Palmer Drug Abuse Program, and to attend Narcotics Anonymous two (2) times a week for two (2) years.
7. On or about February 19, 2008, Respondent submitted a renewal application to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she answered "Yes" to the following question: "In the past 5 years, have you been addicted or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"

In a letter dated April 4, 2008, Jared A. Sloan, CADAC, LADAC, Senior Counselor, Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP) of Lea County, New Mexico, addressed Respondent's treatment. He indicated Respondent had her initial appointment on August 3, 2006. Respondent has been attending 3 meetings a week. She has also had individual counseling

weekly since that initial appointment. He states Respondent has become a positive leader in their group. She has developed her interpersonal relationship skills, parenting techniques, ability to deal with stress, and made progress in both the utilization of healthy coping mechanisms and towards her emotional, social, familial and sobriety oriented goals.

On April 4, 2008, an Addiction Severity Index (ASI) was administered to Respondent. The results show Respondent's growth. Respondent has requested a written commitment for her continued attendance for a period of five (5) years following her release from mandatory involvement with the PDAP.

8. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(1)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5)(11)(B)&(13).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 169722, heretofore issued to RHONDA DENISE RUESING, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof

in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Vocational License Number 169722, heretofore issued to RHONDA DENISE RUESING, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

1. RESPONDENT SHALL immediately deliver the wallet-sized license, heretofore issued to RHONDA DENISE RUESING, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice vocational nursing, use the title "vocational nurse" or the abbreviation "LVN" or wear any insignia identifying herself as a vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a vocational nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
3. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
4. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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

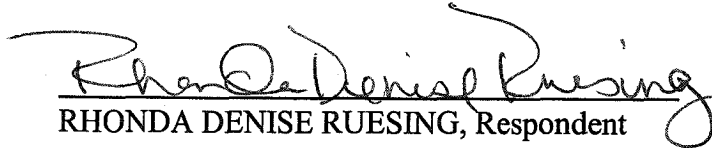
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

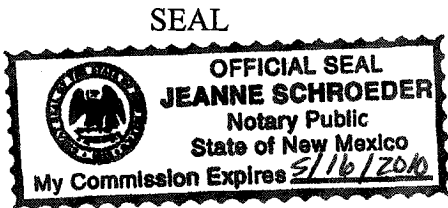
Signed this 10 day of June, 2008.


RHONDA DENISE RUESING, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of June, 2008.




Notary Public in and for the State of New Mexico



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Vocational Nurse License Number 169722, previously issued to RHONDA DENISE RUESING.

Effective this 17th day of June, 2008.


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