



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 Vocational Nurse §
License Number 148749 § AGREED
issued to ALAN JOEL GARF § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ALAN JOEL GARF, Vocational Nurse License Number 148749, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 21, 2008, 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 received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Hill College, Clifton, Texas, on August 5, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 26, 1994.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

1994	LVN Floor Nurse	Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation Clifton, Texas
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Respondent's vocational nursing employment history (continued):

11/95 - 01/05	LVN	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Waco, Texas
01/05 - 04/05	LVN	Waco Lung Association Woodway, Texas
04/05 - 07/06	LVN PRN Float Pool	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Waco, Texas
07/06 - 10/06	LVN	Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation Clifton, Texas
11/06 - 07/07	Unknown	Unknown
08/07-Present	LVN	Hillcrest Family Health Center Waco, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation, Clifton, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately three (3) months.
7. On or about October 30, 2006, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse at Goodall-Witcher Healthcare Foundation, Clifton, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice vocational nursing in that Respondent committed himself to a detox program at the DePaul Center in Waco, Texas, for treatment of alcohol abuse. Respondent's condition could have affected his ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected his ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states: "I did commit myself to a detox program at the De Paul Center in Waco for Alcoholism, and do request that I be referred to TPAPN in order to keep my license in effect."
9. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Finding of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
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 conduct described in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on chemicals.
12. 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 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(E),(5)&(10)(A).
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 148749, heretofore issued to ALAN JOEL GARF, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational 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):

RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to ALAN JOEL GARF, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of

ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement, 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 participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep his license to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 multistate licensure 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 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, 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 nursing in the State of Texas.

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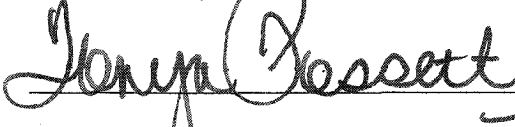
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 violation 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 Texas Board of Nursing, 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 25th day of Aug, 2008


ALAN JOEL GARF, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of August, 2008.


Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS



WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the ___ day of _____, 20___, by ALAN JOEL GARF, Vocational Nurse License Number 148749, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 9th day of September, 2008.



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