

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

1986 - 1991	Employment Unknown
June 1991 - Present	Staff Nurse Southwest Texas OB/GYN Associates Beaumont, Texas

6. On April 11, 2005, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas which required her to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated April 11, 2005, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
7. On or about May 29, 2005, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to her on April 11, 2005, by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. Non-compliance is a result of Respondent's failure to comply with stipulation number one (1) of the Order which states in pertinent part that:
- "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 five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to TPAPN."
8. Respondent states that after receiving the Agreed Order issued to her on April 11, 2005, she contacted the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) and realized that she was unable to comply with all of the requirements of the TPAPN contract. Furthermore, Respondent states that she is not chemically dependent.
9. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is August 6, 2003, as indicated in Finding of Fact Number (7) of the Agreed Order issued to her on April 11, 2005.
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.

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)(1), Texas Occupations Code.

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 529777, heretofore issued to DEBRA ANN BLAND, including revocation of Respondent's professional license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that Registered Nurse License Number 529777, previously issued to DEBRA ANN BLAND, to practice professional nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is enforced until Respondent undergoes a chemical dependency evaluation. The evaluation shall be performed by a Board certified addictionologist approved by the Board. The evaluation shall be completed within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the performing addictionologist to send a report of the evaluation to the Board's office. The report shall include:

1. a description of the instruments used for evaluation and the results of the evaluation;
2. a statement as to the RESPONDENT's fitness to safely practice professional nursing; and
3. recommendations for therapy or other follow-up.

RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the recommendations for therapy or other follow-up. If the evaluation states that Respondent lacks fitness to practice professional nursing, RESPONDENT SHALL continue to cease to practice professional nursing until such time that the same evaluator deems Respondent safe to return to the practice of professional nursing. If the results of the evaluation reveal further violations of the Nursing Practice Act, further disciplinary action may be taken, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Permanent Certificate Number 529777, previously issued to DEBRA ANN BLAND, upon receipt of this Order, be immediately delivered to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

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

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 State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IF FURTHER AGREED, upon receipt of the performing addictionologist's evaluation as set out in this Order and such evaluation deems Respondent safe to practice professional nursing, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on probation for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

(1) RESPONDENT 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 Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and be issued a license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas with the appropriate notation.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the stay of suspension, successfully complete a course in nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Registered

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, and documentation of care. 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 can be found on the Board's website www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in nursing 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Board approved courses may be found on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).*

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of the suspension being stayed. Payment is to be made directly to the Board of Nurse Examiners 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 REGISTERED 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 TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) 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:

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in professional 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.

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in professional 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 professional nurse.

(8) For the duration of the probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising RN 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 RN 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 CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice professional nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising Registered Nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for two (2) years of employment as a professional nurse.

(10) 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.**

(11) 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 second three (3) 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.

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.

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, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

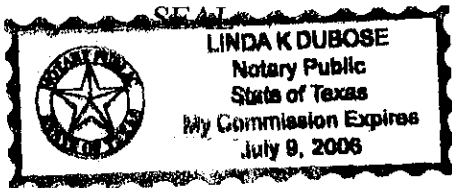
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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. 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 23rd day of January, 2006
Debra Ann Bland
DEBRA ANN BLAND, Respondent

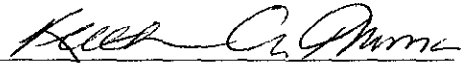
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of January 2006.



Linda K. DuBose
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 23rd day of February, 2006, by DEBRA ANN BLAND, Registered Nurse License Number 529777, and said Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of March, 2006



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

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of License Number 529777 § AGREED
issued to DEBRA ANN BLAND § ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DEBRA ANN BLAND, License Number 529777, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on January 20, 2005, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, on August 17, 1985. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 21, 1986.
5. Respondent's complete professional employment history is unknown.
6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Southeast Texas OB/GYN Associates, Beaumont, Texas, and had been in this position for ten (10) years and seven (7) months.

7. On or about February 2, 2002, through August 6, 2003, while employed at Southeast Texas OB/GYN Associates, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent passed ten (10) fraudulent prescriptions for Xanax at Family Pharmacy, Vidor, Texas. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the pharmacy and possession of Xanax through use of a forged and/or fraudulent prescription is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
8. 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.
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.
10. Respondent's conduct described in Finding Number Seven (7) was significantly influenced by Respondent's dependency on chemicals.
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 a violation of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)&(21).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against License Number 529777, heretofore issued to DEBRA ANNBLAND, including revocation of Respondent's professional 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 five hundred dollars (\$500) 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 professional 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

BALANCE OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

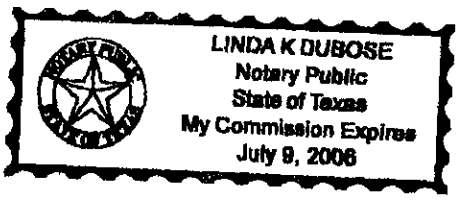
Signed this 5th day of April, 2005.

Debra Ann Bland
DEBRA ANN BLAND, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of April, 2005.

SEAL

Linda K. Dubose
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 5th day of April, 2005, by DEBRA ANN BLAND, License Number 529777, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 11th day of April, 2005.



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