

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse                   §     AGREED  
License Number 548859                               §  
issued to CONNIE JEANNETTE WOODS               §     ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CONNIE JEANNETTE WOODS, Registered Nurse License Number 548859, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(3), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered 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 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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton, Texas, in 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 1, 1988.
5. Respondent's complete professional employment history is unknown.
6. Formal Charges were filed on April 11, 2006.
7. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on April 13, 2006.

8. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, and has been in this position for approximately ten (10) months.
9. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is May 23, 2004, as indicated by Respondent's arrest resulting in Charge Number Two.
10. On October 4, 2004, Respondent pled "Guilty" to the offense of "Driving While Intoxicated," a Felony, under Cause No. 0934123D in the 213<sup>th</sup> District Court of Tarrant County, Texas, for an offense that occurred on May 23, 2004. Respondent was convicted and sentenced to ten (10) years probation and ordered to pay a fine in the amount of one thousand two hundred and fifty (\$1250.00) dollars.
11. Letter submitted by Missy Meaux, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing, Valley Hope Association, which states she has been very delighted to have Respondent as part of her nursing team at Grapevine Valley Hope for the past three (3) years. Ms. Meaux believes Respondent is a great clinical nurse who is doing an incredible job with the patients. Her ability to provide direct patient care, empathy, and compassion for the patients goes above and beyond. Respondent is a team player and her attention and accuracy for detail is meticulous and very appreciated. Ms. Meaux is very grateful that Respondent shares her own experiences, strength, and hope in recovery and hopes that she continues on with them at Valley Hope in her nursing career.
12. Letter, dated October 2, 2008, from Dora Izaguirre, Community Supervision Officer, Tarrant County, Texas, states she has been supervising Respondent since July 2007. Respondent has completed conditions of probation and continues to have an interlock device installed in her vehicle. Respondent has reported every month, is current on fees, submits urine testing as directed, and has maintained stable residence/employment.
13. Document, dated August 9, 2008, from Walter G. McMillen, attesting that Respondent has been attending support group meetings at the Harbor Club, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas.
14. 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)(3), 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 548859, heretofore issued to CONNIE JEANNETTE WOODS, 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 Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS, and 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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in compact states.

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 that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to CONNIE JEANNETTE WOODS, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, 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 not 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/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.*

**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 STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION 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 STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations 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 present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations 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.

(4) 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.

(5) For the duration of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be indirectly supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises at least 85% of the at Respondent's current place of employment. 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.

(6) 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 Registered 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) month period for two (2) years of employment as a nurse.

(7) 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.**

(8) 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 remaining twelve (12) month period, random screens shall be performed quarterly.

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 stipulation 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 stipulation 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.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which shall be for substance abuse; and 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.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board. The reports shall indicate the RESPONDENT's compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until RESPONDENT is released from probation.

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.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

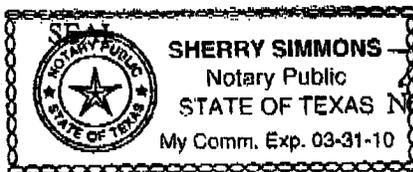
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order.

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

Signed this 17 day of October, 2008.

Connie Leannette Woods  
 CONNIE LEANNETTE WOODS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17 day of Oct, 2008.



Sherry Simmons  
 Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

Approved as to form and substance.

Rachel Sheeran  
 RACHEL SHEERAN, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 17 day of October, 2008

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008, by CONNIE JEANNETTE WOODS, Registered Nurse License Number 548859, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of December, 2008.



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