BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 554519 and Vocational Nurse Licensed Number 118478 issued to SANDRA KAY ROBERTSON-MARTIN

AGREED

§

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of SANDRA KAY ROBERTSON-MARTIN, Registered Nurse Lice Number 554519 and Vocational Nurse Licensed Number 118478, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10)(effective September 1, 1999), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10)(effective September 1, 2001), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2),(3)&(10)(effective September 1, 2005), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10)(effective September 1, 2007), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on September 23, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, 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(s).
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, 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. Respondent holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, which is currently in delinquent status.

- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Howard College, Big Spring, Texas, on May 15, 1987, and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Howard College, Big Spring, Texas, on May 13, 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 2, 1987, and Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 25, 1989.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about January 29, 2001, Respondent was arrested by the Texas Highway Patrol, Region No. 6, District B, Austin, Texas, for THEFT PROP>=\$20 <\$500 BY CHECK (a Class B misdemeanor offense).
 - On or about April 27, 2001, Respondent pled No Contest and was convicted of ISSUANCE OF BAD CHECK, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on April 7, 2000, in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 00-6596-3. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states: This was a result of an error on her part prior to moving to Austin. She closed her checking account, but there were two checks that had not cleared. The items were taken care of, but unfortunately it was after the fact and the arrest. This oversight, was her fault, but they have been taken care of.
- 8. On or about March 26, 2002, Respondent submitted a Texas Online Renewal Document for Registered Nurses and Registered Nurses with Advanced Practice Authorization to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question: "Since the issuance or last renewal of your RN license, have you been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation?"
 - Respondent failed to disclose that on or about April 27, 2001, Respondent pled No Contest and was convicted of ISSUANCE OF BAD CHECK, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on April 7, 2000, in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 00-6596-3.
- 9. On or about June 25, 2005, Respondent was arrested by the County Constable Precinct No. 1 of Williamson County, Texas, for THEFT OF SERV>=\$500<\$1,500 (a Class A misdemeanor offense).
 - On or about September 13, 2005, Respondent was convicted of ISSUANCE OF A BAD CHECK, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on April 14, 2004, in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 05-1924-1. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

10. On or about April 25, 2006, Respondent submitted a Texas Online Renewal Document Registered Nurse to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question: "Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, plead 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 arrest (excluding minor traffic violations) since the last renewal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUI's, DWI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession {MIP} or minor in consumption {MIC} do not need to be disclosed, therefore, you may answer "No". If you have two or more MIP's or MIC's, you must answer "Yes".)"

Respondent failed to disclose on or about September 13, 2005, Respondent was convicted of ISSUANCE OF A BAD CHECK, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on April 14, 2004, in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 05-1924-1.

- 11. In response to Finding of Fact Numbers Eight (8) and Ten (10), Respondent states: She did not intentionally perjure herself. She had the understanding that a misdemeanor was equal to a traffic citation and she did not have to report it. She would have otherwise reported it.
- 12. On or about April 26, 2006, Respondent was arrested by the County Constable Precinct No. 1 of Williamson County, Texas, for THEFT PROP >\$20<\$500 BY CHECK (a Class B misdemeanor offense).
 - On or about July 17, 2006, Respondent pled No Contest and was convicted of ISSUANCE OF BAD CHECK (a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on August 12, 2005), in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 06-0977-3. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 13. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Nine (9), and Twelve (12) Respondent states: The checks were written, but she had been a victim of identity theft by a member of her family and she took care of the checks. She questioned the County Attorney about the signatures on the check, but did not pursue charges against the family member at that time. The member of her family was already in jail. Respondent did not realize that this would have such an impact on her license.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

- 14. On or about April 28, 2008, Respondent submitted and Online Renewal Document Registered Nurse to the Texas Board of Nursing, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question: "Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:
 - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
 - B. been convicted of a felony?
 - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
 - D. received deferred adjudication?
 - E. been placed on community supervision or court ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
 - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
 - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
 - H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
 - I. been <u>cited</u> or charged with any violation of the law?
 - J. been subject of a court martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about July 17, 2006, Respondent pled No Contest and was convicted of ISSUANCE OF BAD CHECK, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on August 12, 2005, in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 06-0977-3.

15. In response to Finding of Fact Number Fourteen (14), Respondent states: She submitted the online renewal, but had been talking to the County Attorney who stated that he was recommending that the charges be dropped and it would take the next court date to dismiss the charges. Respondent did not realize that even though the charges were dismissed, the charges would show up. She would never intentionally provide false information that would endanger the livelihood of her family or the standing of her professional license.

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.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10)(effective September 1, 1999), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10)(effective September 1, 2001), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2),(3)&(10)(effective September 1, 2005), Texas Occupations Code; Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10)(effective September 1, 2007), Texas Occupations Code; 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)&(22)(effective September 1, 1999, thru September 28, 2004); 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(3),(6)(I)&(13)(effective September 28, 2004).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered License Number 554519 and Vocational Licensed Number 118478, heretofore issued to SANDRA KAY ROBERTSON-MARTIN, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) 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 WARNING 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, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license(s) is/are encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact 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 pay a monetary fine in the amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.
- (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) hours in 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.

554519:242 - 6 - C10

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding Board-approved courses may be found at* the following Board we bsite address:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A 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 ONE (1) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) OR A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE, AS APPROPRIATE, WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law

554519:242 - 7 - C10

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 conditions on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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.

- (5) 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.
- (6) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- (7) 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 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 one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this day of , 20 1.

SEAL

ANDREW AARON HIRSCH My Commission Expires June 24, 2015

Notary Public in and for the State of

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the __6th day of <u>December</u>, 20<u>11</u> _, by SANDRA KAY ROBERTSON-MARTIN, Registered Nurse License Number 554519 and Vocational Nurse Licensed Number 118478, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of January, 20 12.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board