



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 Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 533231 §
issued to THERESA NICHOLS § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of THERESA NICHOLS, Registered Nurse License Number 533231, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 3, 2012, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, 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(s).
2. Respondent waived 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.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Texas Women's University, Denton, Texas, on June 1, 1986. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 22, 1986.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about April 27, 2008, Respondent submitted an 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 cited 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 April 29, 2007, Respondent was arrested by the Mesquite Police Department, Mesquite, Texas, for THEFT PROP >=\$50<\$500, a Class B misdemeanor offense, and that the charges were still pending at time of Renewal.

Respondent also failed to disclose that on or about May 5, 2007, Respondent was arrested by the Garland Police Department, Garland, Texas, for THEFT PROP >=\$50<\$500, a Class B misdemeanor offense, and that the charges were still pending at time of Renewal.

7. On or about April 12, 2010, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document Registered Nurse to the Texas Board of Nursing, 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 cited 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?"

On or about April 29, 2007, Respondent was arrested by the Mesquite Police Department, Mesquite, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. MB0740958 for THEFT PROP>=\$50<\$500, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about September 25, 2008, Respondent entered into a Pre-Trial Diversion Agreement in the County Criminal Court Appeals #1 of Dallas County, Texas, and Cause No. MB0740958 was dismissed.

8. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6), and Seven (7), Respondent states: Her failure to disclose the arrest to the Texas Board of Nursing on her 2008 Texas Online Renewal Document form was inadvertent. Respondent believed that the questions related only to convictions and did not realize that arrest or actions other than convictions were included within the list. When she submitted her online renewal form to the Board, she thought that she answered the questions accurately. Reviewing the questions on the Texas Online Renewal Document form, she realized that she should have answered "Yes" as to (G) pre-trial diversion and (H) arrest. Respondent believes that this error also appears in her 2010 license renewal application.

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 violation of Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(I).
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 533231, heretofore issued to THERESA NICHOLS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION AND A FINE, 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 State of Texas 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 five hundred dollars (\$500.00). 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 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.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.

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.

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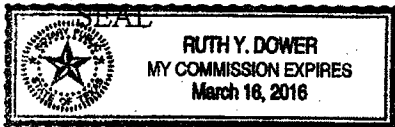
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 13 day of March, 2012.

Theresa Nichols
THERESA NICHOLS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of March, 2012.



Ruth Y. Dower
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Amanda J. Ellis
AMANDA J. ELLIS, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 15 day of March 2012

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 13th day of March, 2012, by THERESA NICHOLS, Registered Nurse License Number 533231, and said Order is final.



Effective this 21st day of March, 2012.

Katherine A. Thomas

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