



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 620081 §
issued to RONALD G. MEZA § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo considered the matter of RONALD G. MEZA, Registered Nurse License Number 620081, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ART. 4525(b)(2)&(9)(effective September 1, 1993), Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code (effective September 1, 1999), and Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code (effective September 1, 2007 and after). Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on January 5, 2012, 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.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Laredo Community College, Laredo, Texas, on May 1, 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 11, 1995.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
6. On or about March 2, 1995, Respondent submitted an Application for Initial Licensure for Graduates of Schools in the United States to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which he provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that he answered "No" to the question: "Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about June 8, 1988, Respondent pled Guilty and was convicted of CRIMINAL TRESPASSING, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on October 17, 1987, in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Cameron County, Texas, under Cause No. 87-CCR-0006106-B.

7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states: He offers the board no excuses, and offers an apology for failing to complete the required documents accurately. He had no intent of deceiving the Board. He did not disclose the arrest, because he thought the charges were dismissed. He was told if he pled guilty and did what the court required the charges would be dismissed and cleared from his record. He used poor judgment by taking a shortcut through the back of a Wal-Mart that was gated. The security guard called the police, and he was arrested.
8. On or about August 29, 1999, Respondent was arrested by the Laredo Police Department, Laredo, Texas, for DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about September 7, 2000, Respondent pled Guilty and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Webb County, Texas, under Cause No. 200CRB178-L2. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Webb County Jail for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of one (1) year, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
9. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states: The August 1999 arrest for the DWI and the conviction that followed was disclosed to the Board of Nursing. This arrest occurred, because he failed to make the right decision and chose to drive after consuming alcohol.
10. On or about March 29, 2009, Respondent pled Guilty and was convicted of PUBLIC INTOXICATION, in the Brownsville Municipal Court of Cameron County, Texas.
11. In response to Finding of Fact Number Ten (10), Respondent states: He pled guilty to a Public Intoxication charge on March 29, 2009. Respondent attempted to go visit his mother in Brownsville, Texas, but ended up getting drunk with some friends. He got sick from drinking too much and threw up outside a store. A police man saw him and one of his friends got rude with the officer. So, the officer arrested them both.

12. On or about October 17, 2010, Respondent was arrested by the Laredo Police Department, Laredo, Texas, for TERRORISTIC THREAT, a Class B misdemeanor offense.
13. In response to Finding of Fact Number Twelve (12), Respondent states: The arrest in October 2010, also occurred due to lack of his good judgement. This arrest occurred when he went to the house (he and his wife were separated at that time), because he feared she had left their son alone. While he was waiting outside, the neighbor started harassing him. The neighbor started saying offensive things toward his wife and threatened to call the police. Respondent told him to go ahead. He told the police that Respondent has been hitting his wife, but his wife was not home and was not able to tell the police that he didn't do anything. Then the neighbor claimed Respondent was threatening him. He tried to explain to the police, but they wouldn't listen. He let his emotions get the best of him again.
14. On December 16, 2011, Jose E. Igoa, M.D., P.A., Renaissance Psychiatry, McAllen, Texas, submitted a letter to the Board of Nursing. Dr. Igoa states that individuals with Respondent's profile are generally not self-referred for therapy, because they typically feel that they have few problems. They may be seen in mental health assessment settings as a result of court referral or at the insistence of a family member. They are usually not very motivated to change their behavior and may leave treatment prematurely. Psychological treatment with this person may not be very successful, because he tends to blame others for his problems. Respondent presents with one isolated incident in which he had a public intoxication charge. He has not had any hazardous drinking since. However, he has had problems in dealing with significant others from the past. A lot of the incidents were related to problems in securing the safety of his son. He has made some efforts on changing this situation and setting more realistic expectations as to what his involvement can be in such situations.
15. 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 violation of TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ART. 4525(b)(2)&(9)(effective September 1, 1993); Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code (effective September 1, 1999); Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code (effective September 1, 2007 and after); 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.13(17)(effective December 1, 1995). and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13)(effective after 9/28/04.

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 620081, heretofore issued to RONALD G. MEZA, 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 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 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 two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). 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>

(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. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.*

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 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(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 be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, who is on the premises. 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.

(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.

(8) 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 a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(9) 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. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

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 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 or failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

(10) IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT be convicted of or receive a deferred order for the offense(s) as outlined in Finding of Fact Number Twelve (12), said judicial action will result in further disciplinary action, up to and, including Revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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

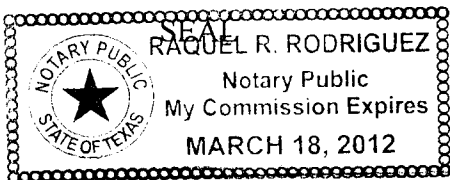
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order.

I 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 2nd day of February, 2012.

Ronald G. Meza
RONALD G. MEZA, Respondent

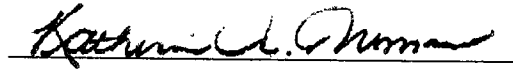
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of February, 2012.



Raquel R. Rodriguez
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 2nd day of February, 20 12 , by RONALD G. MEZA, Registered Nurse License Number 620081, and said Order is final.

Effective this 20th day of March, 20 12 .



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