

Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 549943 issued to SARAH JANE SNOW

ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 549943, issued to SARAH JANE SNOW, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Respondent holds a license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, which is 1. currently in Delinquent status.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Neosho County School of 3. Nursing, Chanute, Kansas, on May 1, 1987. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on December 12, 1988.
- Respondent's complete professional nursing employment history is unknown. 4.
- 5. On or about December 16, 2010, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing, which required her to participate and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order dated, December 16, 2010, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.

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- 6. On or about June 22, 2011, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on December 16, 2010. Respondent's non-compliance was the result of her failure to comply with Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Order, which reads:
 - (3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep her license to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

On June 22, 2011, Respondent requested to withdraw from TPAPN due to ongoing financial, health, and family issues. On June 28, 2011, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Board.

- 7. On or about April 27, 2012, Respondent was arrested by the Bridgeport Police Department, Bridgeport, Texas, and charged with DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 3RD OR MORE (a Third Degree Felony offense). The case is currently pending in Wise County, Texas.
- 8. On July 23, 2012, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's notarized statement, dated July 19, 2012, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 9. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 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 violation(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 549943, heretofore issued to SARAH JANE SNOW, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.452 (b), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TAC§§213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

<u>ORDER</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 549943, heretofore issued to SARAH JANE SNOW, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional nursing, use the title of "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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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.

Effective this <u>13th</u> day of August, 2012.

Ву:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

of said Board

July 19, 2012

Texas Board of Nursing 333 Guadalupe Street Austin, Texas 78701

To Whom It May Concern:

Sarah J. Snow

This letter is to inform you that I, Sarah J. Snow due hearby surrender my RN Nursing License to the Texas State Board of Nursing.

Respectfully,

Sarah J. Snow

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME

- Julia

NOTARY PUBLIC

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse

AGREED

License Number 549943

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issued to SARAH JANE SNOW

§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of SARAH JANE SNOW, Registered Nurse License Number 549943, 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 proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on October 29, 2010, 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(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 Neosho County School of Nursing, Chanute, Kansas, on May 1, 1987. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on December 12, 1988.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

1984 - 1987

GN/RN

Colonial Manor Nursing Home Independence, Kansas

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

| 1984 - 1987 | GN/RN | Colonial Lodge Nursing Home Independence, Kansas |
|----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1987 - 1989 | RN | Nowata Home Health Nowata, Oklahoma |
| 1987- 1989 | RN | Jane Phillips Hospital Bartlesville, Oklahoma |
| 1989 - 1991 | RN | Irving Healthcare Irving, Texas |
| 1991 - 1992 | RN | Milligan Nursing Agency Arlington, Texas |
| 1991 - 1993 | RN | DFW Medical Center Grand Prairie, Texas |
| 1993 - 2002 | Not employed in Nursing | |
| 2002 - 2009 | RN | Surgery Specialists Hurst, Texas |
| 2009 - Present | Unknown | |

- On or about January 15, 2010, Respondent entered a plea of "Guilty" and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on March 19, 2009), in the County Court at Law of Wise County, Texas, under Cause No. CR-64913. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to one hundred eighty days (180) confinement in the Wise County Jail, however, the imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of fourteen (14) months. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 7. On or about January 15, 2010, Respondent entered a plea of "Guilty" and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on April 10, 2009), in the County Court at Law of Wise County, Texas, under Cause No. CR-65303. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to one hundred eighty (180) days confinement in the Wise County Jail, however the imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of fourteen (14) months. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

- 8. On or about May 11, 2010, Respondent entered a plea of "Nolo Contendere" and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on September 9, 2009), in the County Criminal Court No. 5, Denton County, Texas, under Cause No. CR-2009-07912-E. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to one hundred eighty (180) days confinement in the Denton County Jail, however, the imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of fifteen (15) months. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about September 27, 2010, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form (Delinquent for over 90 days) to the Texas Board of Nursing. On the Renewal, Respondent answered "Yes" to the question: "In the past 5 years, have you been addicted or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"
- 10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8), and Nine (9), Respondent states: "I have self referred to TPAPN and have been instructed to send in all my information and wait for the Board to notify me. Due to a subsequent divorce that was extremely painful, I made some horrible decisions that have lead to consequences I am ashamed of. I started drinking in excess and became an alcoholic in the course of 2 years. I went to a treatment facility for 33 days and did not remain sober. I have 3 DWI's on my record. The first was 3-19-09, the second on 04-10-09, and the last on 09-09-09. They were all my fault and I don't remember all the details.

I am happy to say that I have been sober since 09-09-09. I have taken all the classes the courts have ordered and I attend AA regularly. I have a sponsor and my life is much better. I do have a lot of support from my family and attended counseling early on."

- 11. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6), Seven (7), Eight (8), and Nine (9) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on alcohol.
- 14. 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).
- 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 549943, hereto fore issued to SARAH JANE SNOW, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) 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 TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.
- (2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agréement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep her license to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 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 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, 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 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.

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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. 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 Texas Board of Nursing, 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 7 day of <u>Detember</u> 20 10.

SARAH JANE SNOW, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \(\frac{7}{2}\) day of \(\left(\te\)\)\reft(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\left(\)\)\reft(\reft(\left(\left(\left(\te\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\left(\)\)\reft(\reft(\left(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\reft(\reft(\reft(\)\)\ref

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PENNY SPRAYBERRY

Notory Public,
Store of Texas

Comm. Exp. 03-24-13

Notary Public in and for the State of

of said Board

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