



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 STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of  
MELISSA KAYLIE CLIFTON  
PETITIONER for Eligibility for  
Licensure

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§  
§

ORDER OF  
CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

On the date entered below, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by MELISSA KAYLIE CLIFTON, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and PETITIONER's Certificate contained herein. Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may have violated Section 301.452 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on August 26, 2008, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about May 27, 2008, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 of the Texas Occupations Code and the Board's Rule at 22 Texas Administrative Code Section 213.30.
2. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
3. Petitioner was not enrolled in a Nursing Program at the time the petition was submitted.
4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "Yes" to Question Number Two (2), which reads in part as follows: *"Have you been convicted, placed on community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty, sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion, or plead guilty, no contest, or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, or received a court order whether or not a sentence*

*crime in any state, territory or country, or received a court order whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests whether or not on appeal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudication with or without a finding of guilt."*

5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
  - A. Petitioner states that in 2004 she was charged with PUBLIC INTOXICATION and paid a fine.
  - B. On or about June 22, 2006, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on April 28, 2006), in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Montgomery County, Texas, under Cause No. 06-218095. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Montgomery County Jail for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; however, the imposition of sentence of confinement was suspended, and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of eighteen (18) months. Additionally, Petitioner was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
7. Licensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
8. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
9. Petitioner has sworn that her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
10. Petitioner has been advised that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect, or misleading will be considered and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through misrepresentation.
11. On August 26, 2008, the Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Texas Board of Nursing has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

2. Petitioner has submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 of the Texas Occupations Code and the Board's Rule at 22 Texas Administrative Code Section 213.30.
3. Petitioner's criminal history reflects criminal conduct which is grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
4. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452, Texas Occupations Code.
5. The Board may license an individual who has been previously convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any crime whether or not a sentence was imposed upon consideration of the factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
6. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon meeting the requirements for graduation and payment of any required fees, MELISSA KAYLIE CLIFTON, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> Examination). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Nurse in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER's license is encumbered by this Order the PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where PETITIONER wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon attaining a passing grade on the NCLEX-RN®, shall be issued a license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas which shall bear the appropriate notation and PETITIONER SHALL be subject to the following stipulations.

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of initial licensure, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses

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, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, PETITIONER 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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PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past criminal conduct, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my Petition for Declaratory Order, has been in conformity with the Board's professional character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past behavior in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my petition, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.452(a), (b) and (c), Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rules 213.27, 213.28, and 213.29 at 22 Texas Administrative Code. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Graduate Nurse Permit to practice. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to registering for the NCLEX-RN® Examination or accepting any permit or license from the Texas Board of Nursing .

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

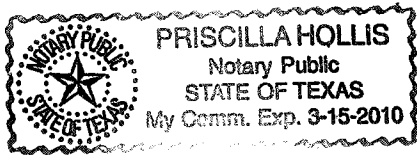
I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing enter this Order.

Signed this 2nd day of November, 2008  
Melissa Kaylie Clifton  
MELISSA KAYLIE CLIFTON, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of November, 2008


SEAL

Priscilla Hollis  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2008, by MELISSA KAYLIE CLIFTON, PETITIONER, for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

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