



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 License Number 756363
issued to TARA SKINNER LONG

§ AGREED
§
§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of TARA SKINNER LONG, Registered Nurse License Number 756363, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(10)&(12) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 24, 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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas on May 7, 2008. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 24, 2008.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

6/08-7/08

Unknown

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

8/08-1/10	RN	St. David's South Austin Hospital Austin, Texas
2/10-8/10	Unknown	
9/10-10/10	RN	Maxim Healthcare Services Austin, Texas
11/10-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Maxim Healthcare Services, Austin, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately one (1) month.
7. On or about October 17, 2010, while employed with Maxim Healthcare Services, Austin, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that she exhibited impaired behavior while on duty that included, but was not limited to: sleeping while on duty at patient 529525647A's home. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. On or about August 9, 2011, Respondent submitted an online renewal document to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "no" to the following question:

"Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:

H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?"

On or about June 3, 2011, Respondent was arrested by the Llano Police Department, Llano, Texas, for "Poss Dangerous Drug."

Respondent's conduct was deceiving and may have affected the Board's decision to renew her license.

9. The Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.

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.
11. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
12. 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 violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(E),(4),(5)&(6)(H)&(I).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 756363, heretofore issued to TARA SKINNER LONG, 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 agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) 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.

(5) 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 Eight (8), 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 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(s) is/are 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

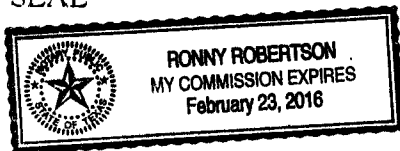
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. 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 29 day of August, 2012.

Tara Skinner Long
TARA SKINNER LONG, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of August, 2012.

SEAL



Ronny Robertson
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

Approved as to form and substance.

Taralynn R. Mackay
TARALYNN R. MACKAY, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 3rd day of September, 2012.

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 29th day of August, 2012, by TARA SKINNER LONG, Registered Nurse License Number 756363, and said Order is final.



Entered and effective this 6th day of September, 2012.

Katherine A. Thomas

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