# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of \$
Registered Nurse License Number 252200 \$
issued to ALICIA ARJONA \$

## 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 252200, issued to ALICIA ARJONA, 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**

- 1. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- 3. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, on May 1, 1980. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 4, 1980.
- 4. Respondent's complete professional nursing employment history includes:

09/1980-05/09

RN

South Texas Health System

McAllen, Texas

05/09-Present

Unknown

On or about February 24, 2012, Respondent was issued Agreed Order by the Board requiring Respondent to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order dated February 24, 2012, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.

do hereby certify this to be a complete, knocurate, and true copy of the document which s on file or is of record in the offices of the fexas Board of Nursing.

\*\*Ethura: Albernas\*\*

\*\*Executive Director of the Board

- 6. On or about July 5, 2012, Respondent failed to timely complete the enrollment process for TPAPN, as required by the February 24, 2012, Board Order, despite being given an extension to do so. As a result, the Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Board.
- 7. On or about January 12, 2012, a mental health warrant for emergency detention was issued in Hidalgo County, Texas, under Cause Number M-010-12-21 for the Respondent's apprehension and transportation to a mental health facility for a mental health assessment. As a result, the Respondent was admitted to inpatient care at a mental health facility.
- 8. On or about January 19, 2012 a mental health warrant for emergency detention was issued in Hidalgo County, Texas, under Cause Number M045-12-2 for the Respondent's apprehension and transportation to a mental health facility for a mental health assessment. As a result, the Respondent was assessed at a mental health facility and referred to inpatient hospitalization.
- 9. Formal Charges were filed on July 31, 2012. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 31, 2012.
- 10. First Amended Formal Charges were filed and mailed on September 11, 2012.
- 11. On October 11, 2012, the Board received a written statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's written statement, dated October 11, 2012, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.

# **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(5),(9)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 252200, heretofore issued to ALICIA ARJONA, 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.

## **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 252200, heretofore issued to ALICIA ARJONA, 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.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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 11th day of October, 2012.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

By:

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

of said Board

l'agree to surrender my license with the understanding that I will be reinstated after one year from this date, if I have been compliant with the Bon requests.

alicia Ayona RN-252200

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse

AGREED

License Number 252200

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issued to ALICIA ARJONA

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ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ALICIA ARJONA, Registered Nurse License Number 252200, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10),(12)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 9, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

#### **EINDINGS 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.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Pan American University. Edinburg, Texas, on May 1, 1980. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 4, 1980.
- 5. Respondent's complete professional nursing employment history includes:

09/1980-05/09

RN

South Texas Health System

McAllen, Texas

05/09-Present

Unknown

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- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with South Texas Health System, McAllen, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately twenty-nine (29) years.
- 7. On or about May 7, 2007, through May 9, 2008 while employed as a Registered Nurse with South Texas Health System, McAllen, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she showed signs of erratic behavior, including but not limited to: demonstrating a negative change in her behavior and in her interactions with her co-workers, accusing coworkers of starting rumors and plotting against her, disrupting the work area, creating a hostile work environment, making inappropriate comments to the physicians and staff, stating that she believes she is being watched through video surveillance, making negative comments about the children of staff members, mood changes, scattered thoughts and sentences, accusing co-workers of sedating her without her knowledge, taking advantage of her and plotting against her, and expressing that she had "visions". Additionally, Respondent was having trouble finishing her charts, nursing notes, and assessments. 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 May 13, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with South Texas Health System, McAllen, Texas, Respondent tried to leave when she had a patient to recovery stating that "since everybody is still here then I can leave"; and left the department without completing a patient assessment and admissions checklist, leaving the incomplete chart in a drawer. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure patients and could have resulted in the patients not getting the care that they needed.
- On or about May 25, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with South Texas Health System, McAllen, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she was hospitalized with a sudden episode of psychosis with paranoid ideas. Respondent was subsequently diagnosed with paranoia, 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. Since her diagnosis Respondent has been complying fully with her treating physicians recommendations.
- 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.
- 11. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers seven (7) through Nine (9) resulted from Respondent's impairment by mental illness.
- 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10),(12)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(B)&(I). and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)&(B),(4),(5)&(12).
- 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 252200, heretofore issued to ALICIA ARJONA, 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 her 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.

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 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 23rd day of <u>Jahran</u> 2012.

Olivia ayena

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 adday of February 2012

NELDA GUAJARDO
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 04-27-2013

Nelda Buazardo

Notary Public in and for the State of Jaxas

Approved as to form and substance

Celeste Guerra, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 23th day of Act. 2012

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# 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 23rd day of February , 20 12, by ALICIA ARJONA, Registered Nurse License Number 252200, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 24th day of February, 2012.

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

