



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 BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of §
SOPHIA ANN FULLER §
PETITIONER for Eligibility for §
Licensure §
ORDER OF
CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by SOPHIA ANN FULLER, 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.

A public meeting was held on September 13, 2005, by the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee of the Board of Nurse Examiners ("Board"), at 333 Guadalupe, Tower 3, Suite 460, Austin, Texas, in which the petition of SOPHIA ANN FULLER, PETITIONER, was considered.

Petitioner appeared in person. PETITIONER was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. Board Members in attendance were: Joyce Adams, PhD, RN; Anita Palmer, ME, MA; and Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, APN Education. Staff present were: Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; James W. Johnston, General Counsel; Joy Sparks, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, Director, Enforcement Division; Christi Horton, Investigator; Randi Cagan, Investigator; Tiana Clayton, Administrative Technician; and Ryan Sprott, Legal Assistant.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about February 1, 2005, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
2. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
3. Petitioner graduated with a Diploma in Professional Nursing from Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas, in May 2005.
4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to Question Number Two (2), which reads as follows: "*Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests?*"
5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:

On December 19, 2001, Petitioner was charged with the state jail felony offense of Theft in the 137th District Court of Lubbock County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and proceedings were deferred without adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was sentenced to four (4) years probation. On September 18, 2004, Petitioner was discharged from probation.
6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
7. The Board received letters of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
 - A letter of reference dated January 17, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Beth McNeill, RN, MA, CCRN, Critical Care Instructor, Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas.
 - A letter of support dated May 18, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Annette Hallman, PhD, RN, Director, Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas.
 - A letter of recommendation dated August 29, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Emily Stephens, RN, BSN, Covenant Health System, Lubbock, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated August 29, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by John A. Webb, Jr., Ovilla, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated August 30, 2005, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Donna Jo Dement, LRC Coordinator, Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas.
 - A letter of reference was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Pamela Meyers, RN, BSN, Clinical Instructor, Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas.

- A letter of reference was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Brooke Horn, LVN, Covenant Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas.
8. Licensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public, provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
 9. The Committee's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
 10. 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.
 11. 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.
 12. On or about September 13, 2005, the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee of the Board 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 Board of Nurse Examiners has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
2. Petitioner has submitted a petition in compliance with Section 301.257 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
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, SOPHIA ANN FULLER, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN® 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, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *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 entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. 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, and documentation of care. 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 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 on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).*

(2) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify PETITIONER's successful completion of the course. 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 on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).*

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, PETITIONER WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND PETITIONER MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

(3) PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER's license. PETITIONER 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.

(4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Petitioner by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a professional nurse.

(5) For the remainder of the stipulation period, PETITIONER SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as PETITIONER, 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 Petitioner is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(6) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Petitioner by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER's capability to practice professional nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the PETITIONER. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for two (2) years of employment as a professional nurse.

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 Board of Nurse Examiners 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 Board of Nurse Examiners.

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

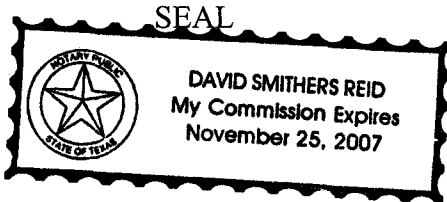
I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Executive Director of the Board of Nurse Examiners enter this Order.

Signed this 28TH day of OCTOBER, 2005.

Sophia Ann Fuller
SOPHIA ANN FULLER, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28TH day of OCTOBER, 2005.


[Signature]
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 28th day of October, 2005, by SOPHIA ANN FULLER, PETITIONER, for Petition for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered this 7th day of November, 2005.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS


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