# BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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§ AGREED

License Number 559575

§

issued to JOHN WELDON WILLIAMS

§ ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinaf referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JOHN WELDON WILLIAMS, Register Nurse License Number 559575, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 6, 2006, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

### **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.
- 2. Respondent waived informal conference, 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 San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas, on December 14, 1989. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 23, 1990.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

03/1990 - 12/1992

Staff Nurse

Park Plaza Hospital

Houston, Texas

03/1991 - 02/2002

PRN Flight Nurse

American Jet Air Medical

Houston, Texas

Executive Director of the Board

## Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

04/1993 - 03/1997	Staff Nurse	Memorial Hermann Hospital Houston, Texas
05/1995 - 06/1999	Flight Nurse	Air America Medical Transport Houston, Texas
04/1999 - 12/2001	Staff Nurse	TRS Behavioral Care, Inc. Houston, Texas
12/2001 - 08/2004	Case Manager, Admissions Coordinator, On-Call Nurse and Admissions Nurse	Odyssey Health Care Houston, Texas
09/2004 - 06/2005	Case Manager	Houston Northwest Medical Center Houston, Texas
07/2005 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Odyssey Health Care, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) years and seven (7) months.
- 7. On or about June 22, 2004, while employed as an admissions nurse with Odyssey Health Care, Houston, Texas, Respondent falsely documented the diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure, as a result of a history of Myocardial Infarction, for Patient B. A. Consequently, the death certificate inaccurately listed Congestive Heart Failure as the cause of death. Respondent's conduct deceived subsequent care givers, and may have created inaccurate, medical records, which may influence the health records of the patient's progeny.
- 8. On or about July 6, 2004, while employed with Odyssey Health Care, Houston, Texas, and on assignment at Mariner Northwest Healthcare Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent administered misappropriated morphine, withdrawn from his backpack, to Patient E. J., without an order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from adverse reactions due to medications administered without the benefit of a physician's care and obtained from an uncontrolled source.
- 9. On or about August 14, 2004, while employed as an admissions nurse with Odyssey Health Care, Houston, Texas, Respondent initiated continuous care for Patient Number 3846 without a valid physician's order and falsely documented that he did receive a physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure other patients by depriving them of continuous care and may have resulted in inaccurate medical records.

- 10. On or about June 29, 2005, while employed as a case manager with Houston Northwest Medical Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent exceeded his scope of practice and falsely documented a telephonic physician's order for a hospice consult with Odyssey Health Care for Patient Number 068123132, when a physician's order had been written for a consult with another hospice provider. Respondent's conduct was deceptive, and resulted in an inaccurate medical record.
- 11. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Ten (10), Respondent states that he would have no basis for manipulating the diagnosis of Patient B. A. Respondent states that the Morphine he administered to Patient E. J. was collected from an expired patient he had discharged, although according to correspondence from Odyssey Health Care, Respondent was not allowed to perform discharges. Respondent states that he believed he was given approval by the Patient Care Manager to initiate continuous care for Patient Number 3846, although the Patient Care Manager denied giving approval. Respondent states that he believed that the type and nature of the change he made to the medical records of Patient Number 068123132 was a common practice by case management in the Houston, Harris County area.

### **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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10)(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 217.11(1) &(3) and 217.12 (1), (3), (19) & (20) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 217.12 (1)&(20) [effective 9/28/04].
- 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 559575, heretofore issued to JOHN WELDON WILLIAMS, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

#### <u>ORDER</u>

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS, and RESPONDENT 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 Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in compact states.

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 State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

#### IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to JOHN WELDON WILLIAMS, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> 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. RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT'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).

- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> 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) hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office to verify RESPONDENT'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).
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> 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. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT'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).

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$ 750.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Board of Nurse Examiners in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT 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:

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT

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

- (7) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in professional nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a professional nurse.
- (8) For the first year of employment as a Registered Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another professional nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- (9) For the remainder of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT, 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 Respondent is currently

working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice professional nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. 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, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multi-state licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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# RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, 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 sauction, including revocation of my license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 2 day of March, 2007.

Althoughout Williams, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of March

Susan Luttrell

NOTARY PUBLIC

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of March

Luttrell

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Commission Expires
MARCH 20, 2010

Susan Luttrell)

Notary Public in and for the State of

TEX45

Approved as to form and substance.

Keith S. Jonati, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 21 day of MANEX

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 21st day of March, 2007, by JOHN WELDON WILLIAMS, Registered Nurse License Number 559575, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of April, 2007.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board