



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.
Patricia A. Palmer
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of §
MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY § ORDER OF
PETITIONER for Eligibility for § CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY
Licensure §

On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Application for Initial Licensure by Examination and supporting documents filed by MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY, 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 August 8, 2006, 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 application of MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY, PETITIONER, was considered.

PETITIONER appeared in person. PETITIONER was notified of his right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel.

Board Members in attendance were: Brenda Jackson, PhD, RN; Anita Palmer, ME, MA; and Beverley Jean Nutall, LVN. Staff present were: Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; James W. Johnston, General Counsel; Victoria Cox, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, Director, Enforcement Division; Carol Pepper, Legal Assistant; and Angela Bradford, Legal Assistant.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about June 12, 2004, 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 completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to Question Number Two (2), which reads in part as follows: *"Have you been arrested in any state, territory, or country, including expunged offenses and deferred adjudication with or without prejudice of guilt for anything other than a minor traffic violation?"* and Question Number Three (3), which reads in part as follows: *"Have you ever been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any crime whether or not a sentence was imposed?"*
4. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
 - A. On October 18, 1981, Petitioner was arrested for the misdemeanor offenses of Possession of a Prohibited Weapon and Disorderly Conduct - Excessive Noise by the San Angelo Police Department. On October 20, 1981, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Criminal Mischief and sentenced to one (1) year probation and assessed a fine in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). On December 22, 1981, in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas, Petitioner was granted a Motion to Dismiss.
 - B. On December 7, 1981, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of no contest and was sentenced to one (1) year probation.
 - C. On June 17, 1982, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilt and proceedings were deferred without adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was sentenced to two (2) years probation. On June 17, 1984, Petitioner was discharged from probation.
 - D. On February 7, 1984, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilt and was sentenced to ten (10) days confinement and assessed a fine in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

- E. On August 30, 1988, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated 2nd offense in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilt and was sentenced to fifteen (15) days confinement and assessed a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
- F. On November 2, 1988, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Theft in the County Court at Law of Tom Green County, Texas. Petitioner pled not guilty and was assessed a fine in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- G. On June 10, 2002, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offenses of Indecency with a Child by Exposure and Indecency with a Child by Contact in the 119th Judicial District Court of Tom Green County, Texas. On May 29, 2003, Petitioner was granted an order of dismissal due to the successful completion of the pre-trial diversion program.
5. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
6. On November 11, 2004, Petitioner was seen by Richard Lee Wall, Ph.D., Lubbock, Texas, to undergo a forensic psychological evaluation to include a chemical dependency and sexual predator component and a polygraph examination. The findings of these evaluations suggested a possible hidden agenda to continue recreational abuse of marijuana by Petitioner, or at least a lack of resolve regarding abstinence, which could be problematic as a nurse. It is recommended that Petitioner become involved in a treatment program of the sort that could satisfy the Board that this issue is not or does not become problematic in his future as a professional nurse.
7. On February 6, 2005, Petitioner was denied licensure to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
8. On or about May 8, 2006, Petitioner submitted an Application for Licensure by Examination requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
9. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
10. Petitioner graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing from Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas, in May 2005.
11. Petitioner completed the Application for Licensure by Examination and answered "yes" to Question Number Four (4), which reads as follows: *"Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"*
12. A letter dated March 27, 2006, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Hector Cantu, Cantu Counseling, San Angelo, Texas, stating that Petitioner has been receiving counseling services for one (1) year with a total of fourteen (14) sessions and a total of two

- (2) random drug screens. Mr. Cantu believes that Petitioner has established a healthy recovery and sincerely believes that Petitioner has achieved knowledge of his personal erroneous beliefs and thinking regarding drug abuse. Mr. Cantu believes that Petitioner will continue living a drug free lifestyle and is ready to work in any nursing position.
13. The Board received letters of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
 - A letter of reference dated October 29, 2003, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Sherry Halfmann, PhD, RN, Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated December 10, 2003, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Rosy Hester, MSN, RN, CNS, Professional Specialist, Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated July 19, 2006, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Rhonda Cain, RN, BSN, CCRN, CEN, Shannon Medical Center, San Angelo, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated July 19, 2006, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Guillermo Longoria, RN, RRT, Director of Caridio-Pulmonary Services, Shannon Medical Center, San Angelo, Texas.
 14. 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.
 15. The Committee's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
 16. Petitioner has sworn that his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
 17. 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.
 18. On August 8, 2006, 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 his 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, MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY, 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 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 in the State of Texas, 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 initial licensure in the State of Texas, 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 each 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 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 nurse.

(5) For the first year of employment as a Registered Nurse under this Order, PETITIONER SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another professional nurse to be working on the same unit as PETITIONER and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. PETITIONER SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The 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) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) PETITIONER SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. **In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and PETITIONER SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(9) PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the second three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the PETITIONER's place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require PETITIONER to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. PETITIONER SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

(10) PETITIONER SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the PETITIONER's progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice professional nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the PETITIONER's stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the stipulation period, or until PETITIONER is dismissed from therapy.

(11) PETITIONER SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which shall be for substance abuse; and PETITIONER SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by PETITIONER. PETITIONER SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

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.

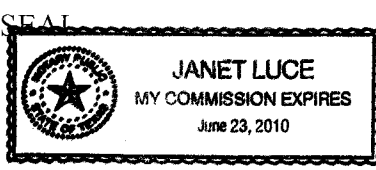
I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

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 27 day of September, 2006

Marcus Nathaniel Ray
MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27 day of September, 2006




Janet Luce
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 27th day of September, 2006, by MARCUS NATHANIEL RAY, PETITIONER, for Application for licensure by examination, and said Order is final.

Entered this 5th day of October, 2006.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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