

In the Matter of

§ AGREED

Vocational Nurse License Number 179152

§

issued to JEANIE MACHELLE O'BRIEN

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JEANIE MACHELLE O'BRIEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 179152, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on November 14, 2012, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Kingwood College, Kingwood, Texas on December 6, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 8, 2001.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2/2001 - 3/2006

LVN

Conroe Regional Medical Center

Conroe, Texas

3/2006 - 4/2006

Unknown

Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

| 5/2006 - 8/2007 | LVN | Texas Children's Pediatrics Office Kingwood, Texas |
|------------------|---------|---|
| 8/2007 - 8/2010 | LVN | Texas Home Health Services Cleveland, Texas |
| 8/2010 - 02/2012 | LVN | Encompass Home Health Conroe, Texas |
| 3/2012 - Present | Unknown | |

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Home Health Nurse with Encompass Home Health, Conroe, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and five (5) months.
- 7. On or about January 20, 2012, while employed as a Home Health Nurse with Encompass Home Health, Conroe, Texas, Respondent submitted a falsely documented visit note which included vital signs and physical assessment findings for Patient G.T. The patient had been hospitalized on January 19, 2012, and was not home on January 20, 2012. Respondent's conduct was deceptive and resulted in an inaccurate medical record.
- 8. On or about February 3, 2012, Respondent submitted a renewal application to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she answered "yes" to the question which reads as follows: "For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
 - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
 - B. been convicted of a felony?
 - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
 - D. received deferred adjudication?
 - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
 - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
 - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
 - H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
 - I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
 - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)"

- 9. Respondent disclosed on the renewal application the following criminal history, to wit:
 - On or about July 7, 2011, Respondent was arrested by the Humble Police Department, Humble, Texas, for the offense of THEFT PROP>=\$500 (a Class B Misdemeanor offense committed on July 7, 2011); and

- On or about October 27, 2011, Respondent admitted being guilty of the offense of Theft and was Ordered by the County Criminal Court at Law Number 12 of Harris County, Texas, Cause No. 1767970, to complete a pre-trial intervention agreement.
- In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), 10. Respondent states that she had been assigned to see patient G.T. prior to leaving town. She states she opened the visit note like she usually does upon arriving to the patient's home, but found that the patient was not home so she went to see another patient. Respondent states that when she arrived at the 2nd patient's visit, she entered the 2nd patient's information under the 1st patient's note, not realizing her error until she got to her hotel that evening. Respondent indicates that since she could not do anything about it at that moment, she decided to fix it later and left the visit open. Respondent states that she was not able to see the two patients until two weeks later, which is when she determined that one patient was in the hospital and she finished the note on her second patient. Regarding the theft offense, Respondent states, "I was stressed about my oldest going to college and was with someone that made stealing look easy. I took toiletries for my daughter and got caught. It was definitely out- of-character for me and the biggest mistake I've ever made. I can promise that this will never happen again. I have 8 months left of pre-trial diversion, then I can have this off my record".

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 §217.11(1)(A)&(1)(D) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(C),(6)(A)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 179152, heretofore issued to JEANIE MACHELLE O'BRIEN, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS AND A FINE, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations -3-

Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§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, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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 nurse licensure compact 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 that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT 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) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. 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 at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

- (2) 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 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) 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 at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order

to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. 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 at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing 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 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 ONE (1) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) OR A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE, AS APPROPRIATE, WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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 nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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.

- (6) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in 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 nurse.
- (7) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational 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.
- (8) 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 nursing. These reports shall be completed by the nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These

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reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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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 violation(s) 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 sanction, including revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 22 day of James 2013.

JEANIE MACHELLE O'BRIEN, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of _

EAI Mary G Smith Shores
Notary Public
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 2-9-15

Notary Public in and for the State of

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 22nd day of January, 2013, by JEANIE MACHELLE O'BRIEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 179152, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of February, 2013.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board