BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of § AGREED Registered Nurse License Number 770926 § issued to NIKKI MARIE OPLIE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of NIKKI MARIE OPLIE, Registered Nurse License Number 770926, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10), 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 12, 2012.

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(s).
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, 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 McLennan Community college, Waco, Texas, on May 8, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 25, 2009.

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5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown,

Executive Director of the Board

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do hereby certify this to be a complete

and true copy of the document which or is of record in the offices of the

- 6. On or about May 20, 2010, Respondent pled Nolo Contendere and was found Guilty of THEFT UNDER \$50, a misdemeanor offense committed on May 4, 2010, in the Waco Municipal Court, Waco, Texas, under Case No. K13329A. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 7. On or about May 20, 2010, Respondent pled Nolo Contendere/ and was found Guilty of FAILURE TO APPEAR, a misdemeanor offense committed on May 18, 2010, in the Waco Municipal Court, Waco, Texas, under Cause No. K13329AA. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 8. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6), and Seven (7), Respondent states in May 2010, she had to resign from her position as a hospice care manager due to issues with her son who has Prader-Willi Syndrome. Although, not having any money is in no way an excuse to steal, at that time she felt she had no other avenue. She is ashamed and humiliated that she has to write this letter. She was cited for theft under 50 dollars.

As issues with her son does in some ways hinder her work schedule, she has found and now utilizes community resources when there are times that she can't make ends meet.

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(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against, Registered Nurse License Number 770926, heretofore issued to NIKKI MARIE OPLIE, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

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IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive

the sanction of a REMEDIAL EDUCATION, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects

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with the 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 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, 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 <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) 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;

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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.

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(2) 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: <u>http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</u>.*

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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 Narch 20 13. NIKKI MA

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26 day of

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Notary Public in and for the State of _______

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>26th</u> day of <u>March</u>, 20<u>13</u>, by NIKKI MARIE OPLIE, Registered Nurse License Number 770926, and said Order is final.

Effective this <u>5th</u> day of <u>April</u>, 20<u>13</u>.

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

In the Matter of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 770926 Issued to NIKKI MARIE OPLIE, Respondent

BEFORE THE TEXAS

BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

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This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, NIKKI MARIE OPLIE, is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 770926 which is in current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

CHARGE I.

On or about May 20, 2010, Respondent pled Nolo Contendere and was found Guilty of THEFT UNDER \$50, a misdemeanor offense committed on May 4, 2010, in the Municipal Court, Waco, Texas, under Case No. K13329A. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE II.

On or about May 20, 2010, Respondent pled Nolo Contendere/ and was found Guilty of FAILURE TO APPEAR, a misdemeanor offense committed on May 18, 2010, in the Municipal Court, Waco, Texas, under Cause No. K13329AA. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for

legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, <u>www.bon.texas.gov</u>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on Adopted Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct and on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Fraud, Theft and Deception, which can be found at the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, which can be found at <u>www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html</u>.

Filed this 24.4 day of _

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel Board Certified - Administrative Law Texas Board of Legal Specialization State Bar No. 10838300 Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24036103 Lance Robert Brenton, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24066924 John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24079751 Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 50511847

Nikki Hopkins, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24052269

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