#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of **AGREED** 

Vocational Nurse License Number 177673

§ § § issued to TINA MARIE LATHAM **ORDER** 

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of TINA MARIE LATHAM, Vocational Nurse License Number 177673, 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)(2)&(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 March 7, 2013.

## 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Panola Junior College, Carthage, Texas, on August 18, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 3, 2000.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about September 29, 2004, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to HARASSMENT, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on September 9, 2004, in the County Court, Sabine County, Texas, under Cause No. SC04128. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of six (6) months and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

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- 7. On or about February 16, 2005, Respondent was arrested by the Sabine County Sheriff's Office, Hemphill, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. SC05-023 for HARASSMENT, a Class B misdemeanor offense. On or about March 26, 2009, Cause No. SC05-023 was dismissed in the County Court of Sabine County, Texas, for the reason: Insufficient Evidence.
- 8. On or about July 12, 2005, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document Licensed Vocational Nurse to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, plead 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 arrest (excluding minor traffic violations) since the last renewal? This includes expunged offense and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUI's, DWI's, PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] do not need to be disclosed, therefore, you may answer "No". If you have two or more MIP's or MIC's, you must answer "Yes".)"

Respondent failed to disclose that, on or about September 29, 2004, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to HARASSMENT, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on September 9, 2004, in the County Court, Sabine County, Texas, under Cause No. SC04128.

Respondent also failed to disclose that, on or about February 16, 2005, Respondent was arrested by the Sabine County Sheriff's Office, Hemphill, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. SC05-023 for HARASSMENT, a Class B misdemeanor offense. The criminal charge was still pending at the time Respondent submitted the Renewal to the Board.

9. On or about July 22, 2007, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document Licensed Vocational Nurse to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you ever been arrested, convicted, placed on community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty, sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion, or plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, or received a court order whether or not a sentence was imposed including any pending criminal charge or unresolved arrest whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violations)? This includes expunged offense and deferred adjudications with or without a finding of guilty. Please note that DUI's, DWI's, PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations."

Respondent failed to disclose that, on or about February 16, 2005, Respondent was arrested by the Sabine County Sheriff's Office, Hemphill, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. SC05-023 for HARASSMENT, a Class B misdemeanor offense. The criminal charge was still pending at the time Respondent submitted the Renewal to the Board.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) through Nine (9), Respondent states that she and her husband divorced in 2003 and he remarried soon thereafter. They have two children together and at the time, her ex husband was allowed weekend visitations; however, he was not exercising his visitation so Respondent allowed her kids to call his home to try to talk to their father. Respondent's husband's new wife resented the calls and filed harassment charges against her. Respondent was advised her attorney that none of the incidents would be on her 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 §217.12(6)(I)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 177673, heretofore issued to TINA MARIE LATHAM, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

### **ORDER**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REMEDIAL EDUCATION 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 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 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 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 pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). 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, 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 <u>A</u> day of <u>M</u> ( MAC A CATHAM, Res	m
 21 May	12

SEAL

BEVERLY BURCH
Notary Public
State of Texas
My Comm. Expires 4-2-2016

Severy Public in and for the State of Texas

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 <a href="May.20\_13">21st</a> day of <a href="May.20\_13">May</a>, 20\_13</a>, by TINA MARIE LATHAM, Vocational Nurse License Number 177673, and said Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of May, 20 13.

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Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board