



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.
William C. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

DOCKET NUMBER 507-13-1739

IN THE MATTER OF
PERMANENT CERTIFICATE
NUMBER 712586
ISSUED TO
MATTHEW JAMES POWERS

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
OF
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: MATTHEW JAMES POWERS
5906 KLINGER RD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76016

BETH BIERMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
300 WEST 15TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on July 18-19, 2013, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order Number 2, *Dismissing Case*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's registered nursing license by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On February 19, 2013, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on his behalf. During the hearing on February 19, 2013, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Final Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to his last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 2, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of Order Number 2, *Dismissing Case*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board

has determined that the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's registered nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23(l), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Number 712586, previously issued to MATTHEW JAMES POWERS, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 18th day of July, 2013.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of
Permanent Registered Nurse
License Number 712586
Issued to MATTHEW JAMES POWERS,
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS
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§ BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, MATTHEW JAMES POWERS, is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 712586 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 September 14, 2012, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on October 24, 2011. Non-compliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) participation agreement in that he submitted a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for Ethyl Glucuronide (EtG) and Ethyl Sulfate (EtS), metabolites of alcohol. Respondent also stopped calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system for drug testing. Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order dated October 24, 2011, states:

"(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep his license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current."

On or about October 15, 2012, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Texas Board of Nursing. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated October 24, 2011, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this pleading.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1) & (10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9) & (11)(B).

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 and TEX. OCC. CODE Ch. 53. 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, www.bon.texas.gov.

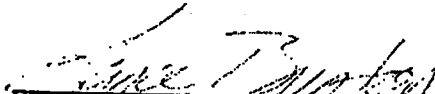
NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder, and for Fraud, Theft and Deception, and for Sexual Misconduct, which 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 www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Agreed Order dated October 24, 2011.

Filed this 2nd day of January, 2012.

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

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Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 50511847

Nikki Hopkins, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24052269

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 00785533

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460
Austin, Texas 78701

P: (512) 305-6811

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Attachments: Agreed Order dated October 24, 2011

D/2012.06.19

I do hereby certify this to be a complete,
accurate, and true copy of the documents which
is on file or is of record in the Office of the
Texas Board of Nursing.

William C. Byrnes
Executive Director of the Board

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AGREED
ORDER

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on September 1, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Baylor University, Dallas, Texas on December 1, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 25, 2005.
5. Respondent's complete professional nursing employment history is unknown.
6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Arlington Memorial Hospital, Arlington, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and six (6) months.

7. On or about June 15, 2006, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Arlington Memorial Hospital, Arlington, Texas, Respondent admitted that he had misappropriated both Demerol and Morphine from the facility and the patients thereof, for his own personal use. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and the patients of the cost of the medications.
8. On or about February 16, 2008, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Las Colinas Medical Center, Irving, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Morphine from the facility and the patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation, in that he was observed placing a 2mg syringe of Morphine in his jacket pocket at the end of his shift. Subsequently, Respondent admitted to the House Supervisor that he had removed the syringe from the Sharps container. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and the patients of the cost of the medications.
9. On or about March 17, 2008, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistant Program for Nurses (TPAPN), Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that he submitted a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Ethyl Glucuronide. The use of alcohol by a nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgements, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
10. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
11. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.
12. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine(9) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on chemicals.
13. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, 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)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(4),(5)(6)(G),(10)(A)&(D).
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 712586, heretofore issued to MATTHEW JAMES POWERS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep his license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 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 multistate licensure 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, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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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 violations alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, 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.

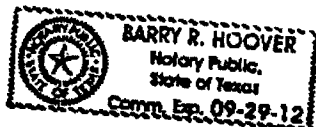
Signed this 19 day of October, 2011.


MATTHEW JAMES POWERS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of OCTOBER, 2011.

SEAL


Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS



WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 19th day of October, 2011, by MATTHEW JAMES POWERS, Registered Nurse License Number 712586, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 24 day of October, 2011.



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