

In the Matter of

AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 635550

issued to CHRISTINE NGOC PHAM

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINE NGOC PHAM, Registered Nurse License Number 635550, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

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Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived 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 5, 2013, subject to ratification by the Board.

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 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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Shoreline Community College, Seattle, Washington, on June 1, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on November 14, 1996.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

12/96 - 06/08

Unknown

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.

Executive Director of the Board

Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

07/08 - Present

RN

Aetna U. S. Healthcare Dallas, Texas

6. On or about April 14, 2012, Respondent was arrested by the Carrollton Police Department, Carrollton, Texas, for AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, a 3rd Degree felony committed on April 14, 2012.

On or about August 13, 2012, Respondent entered a plea of Nolo Contendere to the reduced offense of DEADLY CONDUCT, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on April 14, 2012, in the Denton County Criminal Court No. 1, under Cause No. CR-2012-05539-A. 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 two (2) years and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

Regarding the conduct outlined in Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states that on the night of the arrest she started an argument with her husband while planning to go on a camping retreat. She states that while looking for a lap top charger, she found a handgun in her son's bedroom. Shocked by what she found, Respondent asked her husband why he had a gun, while she was holding it. Respondent states that at no time during the argument did she threaten to shoot anyone. She states she is anti-guns.

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 635550, heretofore issued to CHRISTINE NGOC PHAM, 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 WARNING WITH

STIPULATIONS, 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 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 <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; 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 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.

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

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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. SHOULD THE RESPONDENT CONTINUE IN HER CURRENT POSITION WITH AETNA AS AN APPEALS NURSE CONSULTANT, AN EXCEPTION SHALL BE MADE TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT RESPONDENT PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE IN A CLINICAL SETTING, AND THE EMPLOYMENT SHALL COUNT TOWARD COMPLETION OF THIS ORDER. ALL FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS SHALL APPLY:

- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) With the exception of Respondent's current employment as an Appeals

 Nurse Consultant with Actua U. S. Healthcare, Dallas, Texas, 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.

(6) SHOULD THE RESPONDENT CONTINUE IN HER CURRENT POSITION WITH AETNA AS AN APPEALS NURSE CONSULTANT, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.

(7) With the exception of Respondent's current employment as an Appeals

Nurse Consultant with Aetna U. S. Healthcare, Dallas, Texas, 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 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.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE her probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board. The reports shall indicate the RESPONDENT'S compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until RESPONDENT is released from probation.

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 may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

Order. 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 ranifed to the lunderstand 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 18 day of November 2013.

CHRISTINE NGOC PHAM, RESPONDENT

tribed hefore me this 18 day of November, 2013.

Notary Public in and for the State of 1/2005

Approved as to form and substance.

Taralynn R/Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 18 day of Northwher 2013.

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 18th day of November, 2013, by CHRISTINE NGOC PHAM, Registered Nurse License Number 635550, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23rd day of January, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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