



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.
Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Family Nurse Practitioner § AGREED
with Prescriptive Authorization Number 2821, §
and Registered Nurse License Number 601205 §
issued to DEBRA KAY FERGUSON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DEBRA KAY FERGUSON, Family Nurse Practitioner with Prescriptive Authorization Number 2821, and Registered Nurse License Number 601205, 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) 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 December 8, 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 professional nursing with advanced practice authorization and prescription authorization in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, on December 19, 1993. Respondent received a Masters Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas at Galveston, Galveston, Texas, on December 11, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 15, 1994. Respondent was granted authorization to practice as a Family

Nurse Practitioner in the State of Texas on February 19, 1999. Respondent was granted Prescription Authorization by the Texas Board of Nursing on March 26, 1999.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/94 - 03/95	RN	Woodland Heights Medical Center Lufkin, Texas
03/95 - 04/97	RN	UTMB Corrective Services/Goodman Unit Jasper, Texas
04/97 - 04/99	RN	Christus Jasper Memorial Hospital Jasper, Texas
04/99 - 06/01	FNP	Jasper Memorial Hospital Sam Rayburn, Texas
06/01 - 06/02	FNP	Beaumont Family Practice Beaumont, Texas
06/02 - 12/06	FNP	Southeast Emergency Physicians Group Beaumont, Texas
05/04 - 05/05	FNP	Jasper Memorial Hospital Sam Rayburn, Texas
01/07 - 10/07	FNP	Pineland Family Health Clinic Pineland, Texas
10/07 - 06/09	FNP	Emcare ER Staffing Group Lufkin, Texas
06/09 - 06/10	FNP	Urgent Doc, Inc. Livingston, Texas
01/11 - 04/12	FNP	Pineland Medical Clinic Pineland, Texas
05/12 - 10/12	Not employed in nursing	
11/12 - Present	FNP	Schumacher ER Staffing Group Cleveland, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Urgent Docs, Inc., Livingston, Texas, and had been in this position for six (6) months.

7. On or about January 13, 2010, through May 16, 2010, while employed with Urgent Doc, Lufkin, Texas, Respondent passed five (5) fraudulent telephonically communicated prescriptions for Ambien to CVS Pharmacy, Livingston, Texas, using the name of Michael Iversen, MD, as the provider. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the pharmacy and possession of Ambien through use of a fraudulent telephonically communicated prescription is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
8. On or about October 15, 2012, Respondent submitted a renewal application to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information.
9. On or about June 18, 2013, while employed with Triangle Aids Network, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent passed a fraudulent telephonically communicated prescription for Clonazepam to Walgreens Pharmacy, Beaumont, Texas, using the name of Sylvia Weir, MD, as the provider. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the pharmacy and possession of Clonazepam through use of a fraudulent telephonically communicated prescription is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
10. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent denies that the prescriptions she received for Ambien in 2010 were obtained without the knowledge and approval of Michael Iverson, MD. In response to Finding of Fact Number Nine (9), Respondent denies and states that she used her own prescriptive authority and approved a prescription for Clonazepam for a coworker. She states that Walgreens Pharmacy mistakenly listed Sylvia Weir, MD as the prescribing physician, and she denies that she picked up the prescription for her own use.
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. Formal Charges were filed on September 5, 2013.
13. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on September 10, 2013.

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)(H)(I), (10)(E) & (11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2) & (10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Family Nurse Practitioner with Prescriptive Authorization Number 2821, and Registered Nurse License Number 601205, heretofore issued to DEBRA KAY FERGUSON, 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 REPRIMAND 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 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 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred

dollars (\$500.00). 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 TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) 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:

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) Should RESPONDENT choose to work as a FNP, RESPONDENT'S practice of professional nursing will be monitored for two (2) years by a Family Physician or Family Nurse Practitioner who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT must provide a list of three (3) Family Physicians and/or three (3) Family Nurse Practitioners from which the Board shall select. For the Family Physician and/or Family Nurse Practitioner, the list must include the following for each: name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of RESPONDENT'S receipt of the name of the monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. RESPONDENT SHALL ensure that the monitor submits reports, addressing RESPONDENT'S progress in overcoming these deficiencies to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for the two (2) year stipulation period. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(7) Should RESPONDENT choose to work as a Registered Nurse in a position that does not require an advanced practice nurse license, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered 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. 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 year(s) of employment as a nurse.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period,

random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances and their metabolites:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject the nurse to 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. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to

submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

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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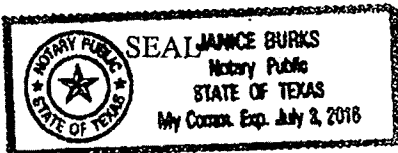
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed 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 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 5th day of February, 2014.

Debra Kay Ferguson
DEBRA KAY FERGUSON, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of February, 2014.



Janice Burks
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Susan Henricks
Susan Henricks, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 6 day of Feb., 2014.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 5th day of February, 2014, by DEBRA KAY FERGUSON, Family Nurse Practitioner with Prescriptive Authorization Number 2821, and Registered Nurse License Number 601205, and said Order is final.

Effective this 18th day of March, 2014.



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