BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of
Registered Nurse License Number 606606
& Vocational Nurse License Number 84231
issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR



ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 606606, and Vocational Nurse License Number 84231, issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- 3. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, Denver, Colorado, on May 9, 1979. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 16, 1979. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas, on June 28, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 11, 1994.
- 4. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

10/1979 - 6/1994 Unknown

7/1994 - Unknown	Home Health Nurse	AstroCare Visiting Health Professionals Houston, Texas
3/1996 - 7/1996	Staff Nurse	Harbourview Care Center League City, Texas
11/1997 - 1999	Home Health Nurse	Gulf Coast Medical Personnel Kingwood, Texas
3/1998 - 8/2001	Home Health Nurse	The Care Group Houston, Texas
8/2001 - Unknown	Agency Nurse	Nurse Finders
7/2002 - Unknown	RN	PSA Healthcare Unknown

- 5. On or about November 19, 2001, Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas was issued the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION. A copy of the Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order dated is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 6. Formal Charges were filed on July 7, 2014. A copy of the Formal Charges is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
- 7. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 14, 2014.
- 8. On August 6, 2014, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's notarized statement, dated August 6, 2014, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 9. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 10. 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.

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(4),(5)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 606606, and Vocational Nurse License Number 84231, heretofore issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TAC§§213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

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<u>ORDER</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 606606, and Vocational Nurse License Number 84231, heretofore issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is/are accepted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice nursing, use the title of registered or vocational nurse or the abbreviation RN or LVN or wear any insignia identifying himself as a registered or vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered or vocational nurse during the period in which the license/s is/are surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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.

Effective this 6th day of August, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Etterin a. Moman

By:

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

EUGENE KOVAR

2611 Violet Pasadena, TX 77503 Phone (281) 998-2133

August 6, 2014

Tanya Harry 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Tanya Harry,

This is the letter requested for me to ask for the Voluntary Surrender of RN License number 606606 and LVN License number 84231. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Eugene Kovar

In the Matter of	§.	BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Registered Nurse	8	
License Number 606606 &	8	
Permanent Vocational Nurse	\$ \$	
License Number 84231	8	
Issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR,	8	
Respondent	§	BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 606606 which is in current status at the time of this pleading, and is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 84231, 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 25, 2010, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that he admitted that he attempted to commit suicide by overdosing on Lorazepam and alcohol. Respondent's condition could have affected his ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected his ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(4)&(5).

CHARGE II.

On or about October 5, 2010, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that he admitted that he attempted to commit suicide by overdosing on Lorazepam and alcohol. Respondent's condition could have affected his ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected his ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(4)&(5).

CHARGE III.

On or about January 4, 2011, Respondent plea of Guilty to DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED 2nd OFFENDER, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed September 25, 2010, in the County Criminal Court 12 of Harris County, Texas, under Cause Number 17927101010. As a result of his plea, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the County Jail, Harris County, Texas for a period of one (1) year; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and Respondent was placed on community supervision for a period of two (2) years and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(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 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 Guidelines for Criminal Conduct and on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder, 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: Order dated November 19, 2001.

Filed this 7th day of Tuly . 20 14.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Sames 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

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24079751

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

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

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460

Austin, Texas 78701

P: (512) 305-6811

F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated November 19, 2001.

D/2014.05.23

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of License Number 606606

AGREED :

issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR

Ş ORDER

executive Director of the Board On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, License Number 606606, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on October 8, 2001, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas. 3.
- 4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas, on May 1, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 11, 1994.
- 5. Respondent's professional employment history includes:

July 1994 - Present

Home Health Nurse AstroCare Visiting Health

Professionals Houston, Texas

606606:059

C20

hereby certify this to be a complete, rate, and true copy of the document which file or is of record in the offices of the

Respondent's professional employment history continued:

October 1995 - November 1995 Clinic Nurse Olsten Kimberly Quality Care

Houston, Texas

March 1996 - July 1996 Staff Nurse Harbourview Care Center

League City, Texas

November 1997 - 1999 Home Health Nurse Gulf Coast Medical Personnel

Kingwood, Texas

March 1998 - August 2001 Home Health Nurse The Care Group

Houston, Texas

August 2001 - Present Agency Nurse Nurse Finders

Kingwood, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a home health nurse with the Care Group, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for three (3) years and five (5) months.

7. Respondent, on or about August 10, 2001, while employed with the Care Group, Houston, Texas, telephoned R.L., the mother of a near drowning patient, to arrange a time to care for the patient. R.L. informed Respondent that she was not sure of a time for Respondent to come by the house because R.L. did not know what she was going to do with her other two children because her husband was at work. Respondent stated that "we could always find some big rocks and tie it to them and throw them in a lake". Respondent's conduct was likely to cause emotional harm to R.L.

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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)&(16).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against License Number 606606, heretofore issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, including revocation of Respondent's professional license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

<u>ORDER</u>

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et seq. and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is 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 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 deliver the wallet-size license issued to EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within three weeks of the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Registered Nurses. It shall be a

minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. 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.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Registered Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional 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 violation 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 to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 7 day of November 2001.

EUGENE CHARLES KOVAR, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of

BARBARA STAFFORD
Notary Public, State of Texas
Niy Commission Expires
June 01, 2004

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of
the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order
that was signed on the 7th day of November, 20 01, by EUGENE CHARLES
KOVAR, License Number 606606, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of November, 2001.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN Executive Director on behalf

of said Board