

In the Matter of **AGREED** 

executive Director of the Box PAIGE DAWSON, a/ka/ PAIGE DIANE DAWSON. PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure **ELIGIBILITY OR** 

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as considered the Endorsement Application, which has been processed as a Petition for Declaratory Order pursuant to 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30, and supporting documents filed by PAIGE DAWSON, a/ka/ PAIGE DIANE DAWSON, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and Petitioner's Certification contained herein.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may be ineligible for licensure pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(9)&(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER appeared in person. PETITIONER was represented by Phong P. Phan, Attorney at Law.

Board Members in attendance were: Deborah Bell, CLU, ChFC; Tamara Cowen, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN. Staff present were: Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director; James W. Johnston, General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, Director, Enforcement Division; Danielle Groux, Investigator; Omar Hasan, Investigator; Ashley Kay, Investigator; Roberto Rodriguez, Investigator; Kathy Hoffman, Legal Assistant Supervisor; Natalie Adelaja, Assistant General Counsel; and Andrea Gonzalez, Legal Secretary.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. On or about May 20, 2012, PETITIONER submitted an Endorsement Application requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30.
- 2. Petitioner waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Petitioner received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Grandview University, De Moines, Iowa, on December 1, 2009.
- 4. Petitioner completed the Endorsement Application and answered "Yes" to the question which reads as follows: *"For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:* 
  - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - B. been convicted of a felony?
  - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - D. received deferred adjudication?
  - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
  - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
  - I. been <u>cited</u> or charged with any violation of the law?
  - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)"

- 5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
  - A. On or about May 31, 2004, Petitioner was arrested by the Garyson County Sheriff's Office, Dallas, Texas, for POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, a Class C misdemeanor offense. On or about June 8, 2004, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, in the County Court of Grayson County, Texas, under Cause No. 104569JP2, and was ordered to pay a fine.
  - B. On or about May 31, 2004, Petitioner was arrested by the Grayson County Sheriff's Office, Dallas, Texas, for POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, a Class B misdemeanor offense and RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

On or about July 14, 2004, Petitioner entered a plea of No Contest to POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on May 31, 2004, in the County Court of Grayson County, Texas, under Cause No. 2004-1-1000. As a result of the plea, Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of nine (9) months.

On or about July 14, 2004, Petitioner entered a plea of No Contest to RESIST ARREST SEARCH OR TRANSPORT, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on May 31, 2004, in the County Court of Grayson County, Texas, under Cause No. 2004-1-1034. As a result of the plea, Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of nine (9) months.

C. On or about July 2, 2005, Petitioner was arrested by the Garland Police Department, Garland, Texas, for DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about December 22, 2005, Petitioner entered a plea of No Contest to, and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on July 2, 2005, in the County Criminal Court at Law of Tarrant County, Texas, under Cause No. MB0528061. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Tarrant County Jail for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of twenty-four (24) months. On or about December 26, 2007, Petitioner was discharged from probation.

D. On or about October 29, 2006, Petitioner was arrested by the Iowa City Police Department, Iowa City, Iowa, for ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY, a misdemeanor offense.

On or about March 29, 2007, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY, a misdemeanor offense committed on October 29, 2006, int the District Court in and for Johnson County, Iowa, under Cause No. SRCR077661. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was placed on probation for one (1) year.

E. On or about August 30, 2012, Petitioner was arrested by the Cedar Park Police Department, Cedar Park, Texas, for DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about December 20, 2012, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED >=0.15, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on August 30, 2012, in the County Court at Law No. 3 of Williamson County, Texas, under Cause No. 12-07591-3. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Williamson County Jail

for a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of fifteen (15) months.

- 6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
- 7. On or about July 2, 2013, Petitioner was required to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation. On or about December 30, 2013 and January 27, 2013, Petitioner was seen by Alexander Howe, Ph.D., to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation. Dr. Howe states Petitioner would benefit from consideration of provisional licensure that includes active and enduring participation in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. Dr. Howe states it would be beneficial to have Petitioner involved with like-minded professionals who are also having to confront significant features of their usage of alcohol to manage their lives.
- 8. Petitioner voluntarily obtained a psychological evaluation and an additional chemical dependency evaluation.

On or about April 4, 2014, Petitioner was seen by David M. Sabine, Ph.D., to undergo a psychological evaluation. The psychological testing essentially suggests that Petitioner does not suffer from any significant psychiatric disorder and is an unlikely candidate, based on the SASSI-3, to have a substance abuse diagnosis. Based on the clinical interview, review of all available records, and the testing accomplished, Dr. Sabine does not feel that Petitioner currently meets the criteria for a chemical dependency diagnosis of any kind. Dr. Sabine does not find that Petitioner's clinical history merits involvement in any type of rehabilitation or monitoring program. It is the personal opinion that Petitioner's commitment to sobriety, which she has exemplified over the last 18 months, is genuine and will most likely be sustained. It is Dr. Sabine's professional recommendation that Petitioner's application for full, unrestricted licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas be considered favorably.

On or about April 4, 2014, Petitioner was seen by Harvey C. Martin, M.D., to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation. The psychological testing by Dr. Sabine essentially suggests that Petitioner does not suffer from any significant psychiatric disorder and is an unlikely candidate, based on the SASSI-3, to have a substance abuse diagnosis. Based on the clinical interview, review of all available records, and the testing accomplished by Dr. Sabine, Dr. Martin does not feel that Petitioner currently meets the criteria for a chemical dependency diagnosis of any kind. Dr. Martin does not find that her clinical history merits involvement in any type of rehabilitative or monitoring program. It is Dr. Martin's personal opinion that Petitioner's commitment to sobriety, which she has exemplified over the last 18 months, is genuine and will most likely be sustained. It is his further professional recommendation that Petitioner's application for full, unrestricted licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas be considered favorably.

- 9. Petitioner provided letters of support/recommendation to the Board from the following:
  - A letter of reference was submitted to the Board by Billy Benskin, the Printer, Inc., Production Manager, Des Moines, Iowa.
  - A letter of reference dated December 4, 2013, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Ryan Brown, RN, Temple, Texas.
  - A letter of reference dated June 1, 2014, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Dr. James Potts, Scott and White Hospital, Temple, Texas.
  - A letter of reference dated July 25, 2014, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Erin Schwarz, RN.
  - A letter of reference was submitted to the Board by Anthony Passeur, CEO, Harmony, Cedar Park, Texas.
- 10. The safety of patients and the public requires that all persons licensed to practice nursing be fit, sober, and able to consistently practice nursing in autonomous roles under demanding and stressful conditions.
- 11. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Endorsement Application, her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27.
- 12. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
- 13. The Committee considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.
- 14. The Committee considered evidence of Petitioner's past criminal conduct in light of the considerations and criteria provided in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§213.28 & 213.33, and, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 15. The Committee considered evidence of Petitioner's substance abuse/chemical dependency, and subsequent rehabilitation as provided in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 and in accordance with 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33.
- 16. Licensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
- 17. The Committee's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

- 18. Petitioner has been advised by the Board that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading to the Board or a subsequent discovery of a basis of ineligibility will be considered by the Board and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through fraud or deceit.
- 19. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 301.452 and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
- 2. On or about May 20, 2012, PETITIONER submitted an Endorsement Application requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30.
- 3. Petitioner's history reflects conduct which may constitute grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code.
- 4. The Board may probate the denial of a license under conditions for a specified term pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
- The Board may license an individual who has been previously convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any crime whether or not a sentence was imposed upon consideration of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.28 and, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 6. The Board may license an individual who has a history of substance abuse and/or chemical dependency after consideration of the criteria set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 if the Board determines the individual does not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
- 7. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.27, and pursuant to 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.33, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
- 8. This Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of Petitioner's disclosures. Any subsequently discovered discrepancies will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of Petitioner's license(s).

## ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED that the application of PETITIONER is hereby GRANTED, and upon payment of the required fees, PETITIONER SHALL be issued the applicable license to practice nursing in the State of Texas, which shall be subject to the following stipulations:

PETITIONER SHALL obtain and read the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure, and Practice.

PETITIONER 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 this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER'S license is encumbered by this Order, PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER wishes to work.

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of licensure, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. PETITIONER 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 Paige Dawson:063

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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. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'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. Boardapproved courses may be found at the following Board website address: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

(2) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of licensure, 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, PETITIONER 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. Information regarding Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND PETITIONER MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE

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:

- (3) PETITIONER SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER'S license(s). PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER'S license(s). PETITIONER 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) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- (5) PETITIONER SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed and practicing as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed and practicing 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 PETITIONER, 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 PETITIONER is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

- (6) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Nurse who supervises the PETITIONER. 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 two (2) years of employment as a nurse.
- (7) PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER 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.
- (8) PETITIONER 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

Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Meperidine Methadone

Methaqualone

Opiates Phencyclidine

Propoxyphene

A Board representative may appear at the PETITIONER'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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 Petitioner'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 PETITIONER'S license to practice nursing in the State of Texas and PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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## PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past conduct which could constitute grounds for licensure ineligibility, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my application, has been in conformity with the Board's character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past conduct in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my application, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Sections 301.157(d), 301.252, 301.253, 301.257, 301.258, 301.260, 301.452, and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§213.27, 213.28, 213.29, and 213.30. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Temporary Permit to practice nursing. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to accepting any license from the Texas Board of Nursing.

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.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.

Signed this 24th day of September, 2014

PAIGE DAWSON, a/ka/ PAIGE DIANE DAWSON,

**PETITIONER** 

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 34

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of Texa

IRENE J. PURCELL
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
August 01, 2016

Approved as to form and substance.

Phong Phan, Attorney for Petitioner

Signed this 25 th day of September, 20 14.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Eligibility Order that was signed on the \_\_24<sup>th</sup>\_\_ day of \_\_September\_\_\_, \_\_2014\_\_, by PAIGE DAWSON, a/ka/ PAIGE DIANE DAWSON, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 29th day of September, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf of said Board