

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 526837 §
issued to BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS § ORDER



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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS, Registered Nurse License Number 526837, 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),(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on March 6, 2015.

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 notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Amarillo College-AD, Amarillo, Texas, on May 1, 1985. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 28, 1985.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about April 30, 2013, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document Registered Nurse to the Texas Board of Nursing, in which Respondent provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that he answered "No" to the question: "Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:
- 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 any pending criminal charges?
 - I. been cited 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?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about October 5, 2012, Respondent was arrested by the Irving Police Department, and charged with POSSESSION MARIJUANA <2 OZ, a Class B misdemeanor offense, in the Criminal County Court No. 6, Dallas County, Texas, under Cause No. MB1236115 and that the charge was still pending at the time of renewal.

7. On or about July 8, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of No Contest to the reduced charge of DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, a misdemeanor offense committed on October 5, 2012, in the County Criminal Court #6, Dallas County, Texas, under Cause No. MC12-36115-G. As a result of the plea, proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of three (3) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
8. On or about July 8, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty/ Nolo Contendere and was convicted of DWI, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on September 22, 2013, in the County Criminal Court No. 6, Dallas County, Texas, under Cause No. MB1334383. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Dallas County Jail for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of twenty (20) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
9. On or about July 8, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to the reduced charge of DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, a misdemeanor offense committed on September 28, 2013, in the County Criminal Court No. 6, Dallas County, Texas, under Cause No. MC1310348. As a result of the plea, proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an

adjudication of guilt, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of three (3) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) through Nine (9), Respondent admits he was convicted of a DWI, and two (2) POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA charges, but says he has never provided patient care while under the influence, nor has he ever diverted narcotics. On September 5, 2014, he entered into the Hickory Trail Hospital in Desoto, Texas for detox and was transferred to the Turtle Creek Recovery Center in Dallas, Texas, on September 10, 2014 for residential treatment. Respondent states he was discharged from Turtle Creek on September 24, 2014, and then completed outpatient treatment from the facility on October 21, 2014. Respondent currently resides at the Dallas Oxford House and has been sober for sixty-five days.
11. On January 13, 2015, Respondent was seen by Dr Emily Fallis, Ph.D who stated the following:

Respondent demonstrated evidence of substance abuse in remission. He would benefit from supportive programs to prevent substance abuse in the future. In this examiner's opinion, while Respondent remains engaged in substance abuse support programs, he has a low risk of engaging in behaviors which the Board of Nursing has identified as constituting unprofessional conduct. This examiner further opines that abusing substances as part of his duties as a nurse is unlikely.
12. Respondent states February 2014 as his date of sobriety.
13. 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.
14. Formal Charges were filed on July 18, 2014.
15. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 22, 2014.
16. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
17. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder mental illness.
18. 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 substance use disorder.

19. 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 301.451-301.555 , 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 and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(I)&(13).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(9)&(10) Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 526837, heretofore issued to BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.
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.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 526837, previously issued to BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **ENFORCED** until Respondent:

- A. Applies to, is accepted into, and completes enrollment in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), including payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); and

- B. Waives confidentiality and **provides a copy of the fully executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Board.**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the above requirements, the Suspension will be **STAYED**, and RESPONDENT will be placed on **PROBATION** for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the TPAPN **AND** until Respondent fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

- C. RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.
- D. RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.
- E. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.
- F. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- G. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- H. Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state without first obtaining the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the nurse licensure compact party state where Respondent wishes to work.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to 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.

III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) **within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed:**

A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics that 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. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.*

IV. FURTHER COMPLAINTS

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

V. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE

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 TEMPORARY 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.

VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

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

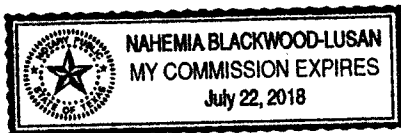
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order and all conditions of said 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 9th day of APRIL, 2015.
Brett George Simmons
BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of April, 2015.

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 ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 9th day of April, 2015, by BRETT GEORGE SIMMONS, Registered Nurse License Number 526837, and said Order is final.

Effective this 27th day of April, 2015.



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