



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

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In the Matter of § AGREED  
Registered Nurse License Number 774215 §  
issued to CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM, Registered Nurse License Number 774215, 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)(10)&(13), 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 9, 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 the West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, on May 9, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 13, 2009.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

06/2009 - 11/2009	RN	Pampa Regional Medical Center Pampa, Texas
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Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

12/2009 - 12/2009	Unknown	
01/2010 - 06/2010	RN	Plumb Creek Specialty Hospital Amarillo, Texas
07/2010 - 09/2010	Unknown	
10/2010 - 07/2011	RN	Covenant Hospital Plainview Plainview, Texas
08/2011 - 07/2012	Unknown	
08/2012 - 08/2013	RN	Covenant Hospital Plainview Plainview, Texas
09/2013 - 11/2013	Unknown	
12/2013 - 02/2015	Not employed in Nursing	
09/2014 - 02/2015	RN	Grace Medical Center Lubbock, Texas
02/2015 - Present	Not employed	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately four (4) months.
7. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054619 without a valid physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient, in that the administration of the medication without a valid physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions. Further, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
8. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054619, but failed to document, and/or completely and accurately document, the administration of the medication in the Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurse's Notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients,

in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients, which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

9. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054619, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure regarding wastage of any of the unused portions of the medication. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
10. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent misappropriated two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg belonging to Patient #0054619, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medication and was in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
11. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew Demerol 75mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #1005004 without a valid physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient, in that the administration of the medication without a valid physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
12. On or about January 1, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent falsely documented the administration of Demerol 60mg for Patient #54578 by another RN. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients, in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
13. On or about January 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent falsified physician's orders for Meperidine and Demerol. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record and was likely to deceive other care givers who needed complete information on which to base their care.
14. On or about January 5, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054657 without a valid physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient, in that the administration of the medication without

a valid physician's order could result in the patient suffering from adverse reactions, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

15. On or about January 5, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054657, but failed to document, and/or completely and accurately document, the administration of the medication in the Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurse's Notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients, in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
16. On or about January 5, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient #0054657, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure regarding wastage of any of the unused portions of the medication. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
17. On or about January 5, 2015, while employed with Grace Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent misappropriated two (2) vials of Meperidine HCL 50mg belonging to Patient #0054657, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medication and was in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
18. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Seventeen (17), Respondent admits she was misappropriating these medications for her own personal use, falsely documented in order to avoid getting caught, and failed to waste. Respondent states she's an addict and had fifteen (15) months of continuous sobriety at the time of the allegations, but was placed on narcotics for health issues. Once she was given the first narcotic, it caused "that flip to be switched back on full force in (her) addiction." She knows her actions were wrong and takes full responsibility. She's currently in an inpatient, residential, rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol addiction.
19. 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.
20. 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.

21. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
22. 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.
23. 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 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(D),(2)&(3) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(A),(6)(G),(6)(H),(8),(10)(B),(10)(C),(10)(E)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 774215, heretofore issued to CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM, 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 774215, previously issued to CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM, 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](http://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 5 day of May, 2015.  
Cassi Louise Burtram  
CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.


Victoria Lara Medina  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

SEAL



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 5th day of May, 20 15, by CASSI LOUISE BURTRAM, Registered Nurse License Number 774215, and said Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of May, 20 15.

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