

IN THE MATTER OF PERMANENT  
PERMANENT VOCATIONAL NURSE  
LICENSE NUMBER 156238  
ISSUED TO STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER,  
RESPONDENT

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS  
§ BOARD OF NURSING  
§ ELIGIBILITY AND  
§ DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE  
§



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.  
*Patricia Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO: STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER  
208 11TH ST  
ORANGE, TX 77630

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on **June 16, 2015**, the Texas Board of Nursing Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter "Committee") heard the above-styled case, based on the failure of the Respondent to appear as required by 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with Texas Government Code § 2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301 of the Texas Occupations Code, for retention of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

The Committee finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with section 301.458, Texas Occupations Code.

The Committee finds that after proper and timely Notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in this matter, Respondent has failed to appear in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that the Board is authorized to enter a default order pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2001.056.

The Committee, after review and due consideration, adopts the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as stated in the Formal Charges which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference for all purposes and the Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order

will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing [22 TEX. ADMIN.CODE § 213.16(j)]. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order.

All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 156238, previously issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

Entered this 16th day of June, 2015.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charge filed April 2, 2015.

d17r(2014.12.05)

Re: Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 156238  
Issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER  
DEFAULT ORDER - REVOKE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 17 day of June, 2015, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served and addressed to the following person(s), as follows:

Via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER  
208 11TH ST  
ORANGE, TX 77630

Via USPS First Class Mail

STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER  
208 11TH ST  
ORANGE, TX 77630

BY:



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

**In the Matter of  
Permanent Vocational Nurse  
License Number 156238  
Issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER,  
Respondent**

§       **BEFORE THE TEXAS**  
§  
§  
§  
§       **BOARD OF NURSING**

**FORMAL CHARGES**

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 156238, which is in delinquent 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 August 7, 2014, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to him on August 6, 2013, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Two (2) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics...

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

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. 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](http://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](http://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 August 6, 2013.

Filed this 2nd day of April, 2015.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

  
James 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

Natalie E. Adelaja, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24064715

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) 305-8657  
F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated August 6, 2013.

D(2015.02.24)



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 Vocational § AGREED  
Nurse License Number 156238 §  
issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, Vocational Nurse License Number 156238, 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),(8)&(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on May 17, 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Valley Grande College, Weslaco, Texas on December 16, , 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 5, 1996.
5. Respondent's complete nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about August 18, 2000, Respondent received a Final Agency Order from the Colorado State Board of Nursing wherein Respondent's license to practice practical nursing in the State of Colorado was Revoked for failure to administer medications as ordered by the physician and failure to properly document the administration of medications for six (6) patients. A copy of the Final Agency Order issued by the Colorado State Board of Nursing, dated August 18, 2000, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.

7. On or about October 12, 2008, Respondent submitted an online renewal document to the Texas Board of Nursing - Licensed Vocational Nurse in which Respondent provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that Respondent answered "no" to the following question:

"Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a nursing license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or other wise disciplined you?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about August 18, 2000, Respondent received a Final Agency Order from the Colorado State Board of Nursing wherein his license to practice practical nursing in the State of Colorado was Revoked. Respondent's conduct was deceiving and may have affected the Board's decision to renew his license.

8. On or about October 24, 2010, Respondent submitted an online renewal document to the Texas Board of Nursing - Licensed Vocational Nurse in which Respondent provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that Respondent answered "no" to the following question:

"Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a nursing license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or other wise disciplined you?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about August 18, 2000, Respondent received a Final Agency Order from the Colorado State Board of Nursing wherein his license to practice practical nursing in the State of Colorado was Revoked. Respondent's conduct was deceiving and may have affected the Board's decision to renew his license.

9. On or about November 1, 2012, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form to the Texas Board of Nursing wherein Respondent provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that you answered "no" to the following question:

"Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you? (You may exclude disciplinary actions previously disclosed to the Texas Board of Nursing on an initial licensure or renewal application.)"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about August 18, 2000, while holding a license as a Vocational Nurse in the State of Texas, Respondent received a Final Agency Order from the Colorado State Board of Nursing wherein his license to practice practical nursing in the State of Colorado was Revoked. Respondent's conduct was deceiving and may have affected the Board's decision to renew his license.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) through Nine (9), Respondent states his license in the State of Colorado was revoked in 2000 for not attending a hearing. Respondent further states that when answering the questions on his Texas renewal applications, he understood the question to refer to disciplinary action taken by the Texas Board of Nursing only.
11. Formal Charges were filed on March 7, 2013.
12. Charges were mailed to Respondent on March 7, 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).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2),(8)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 156238, heretofore issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 156238, previously issued to STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, to practice nursing in Texas is/are hereby SUSPENDED for a period of one (1) year with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for one (1) year with the following agreed terms of probation:

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 the 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.

(1) 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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>.*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within ninety (90) days of the suspension being stayed. 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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) 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:**

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions 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 probation conditions 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.

(6) 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.

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed 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 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.

(8) 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 one (1) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that 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.

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 waive representation by counsel. 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

Stephen James Tupper  
STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013.

SEAL

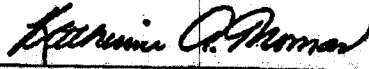


My Commission Expires 05/03/2016

Mandi Ahlberg  
Notary Public in and for the State of Colorado

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013, by STEPHEN JAMES TUPPER, Vocational Nurse License Number 156238, and said Order is final.

Effective this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.



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