



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 517150 §
issued to KAREN SUE COCKRILL § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of KAREN SUE COCKRILL, Registered Nurse License Number 517150, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.

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

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 an Associate Degree from Alvin Junior College, Alvin, Texas, on May 1, 1984. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 25, 1984.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

8/84-6/07	Unknown	
7/07-8/08	RN	Methodist Willowbrook Hospital Houston, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

5/08-12/10	RN	Cypress Creek Hospital Houston, Texas
1/11	Unknown	
2/11-1/13	RN	Cypress Fairbanks Hospital Houston, Texas
2/13-3/13	Unknown	
4/13-11/13	RN	Menninger Clinic Houston, Texas
12/13-1/14	Unknown	
2/14-3/14	RN	AMN Healthcare Baptist Medical Center San Antonio, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with AMN Healthcare, and had been in that position for one (1) month.
7. On or about March 19, 2014, while employed with AMN Healthcare and working at Baptist Healthcare System, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that she was observed exhibiting impaired behavior. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. On or about March 19, 2014, while employed with AMN Healthcare, San Antonio, Texas, and working at Baptist Healthcare System, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Soma and Vicodin in that she admitted to taking Soma and Vicodin the night prior for her back. Unlawful possession of Soma and Vicodin is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Soma and Vicodin by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patients' conditions, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

9. Respondent states that while she's worked hard to overcome great personal and professional obstacles in her life due to substance abuse issues, she was not actively "using". Respondent states that it is an undisputable fact that she was observed exhibiting impaired behavior in the workplace, however it was due to her taking prescribed Vicodin and Soma for her back the night before. Respondent states if she had the slightest thought she wasn't fit to work, she would have never gone in.
10. Formal Charges were filed on April 18, 2015.
11. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on April 20, 2015.
12. Respondent, by her signature to this Order, expresses her willingness to voluntarily surrender her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- ~~13. 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.~~
14. 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(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5),(10)(A),(10)(D)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 517150, heretofore issued to KAREN SUE COCKRILL, 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.

6. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
7. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
8. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the **VOLUNTARY**

SURRENDER of Registered Nurse License Number 517150, heretofore issued to KAREN SUE COCKRILL, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing.

In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until:
 - A. One (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and
 - B. RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition for reinstatement.
3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

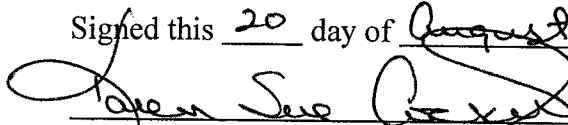
IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

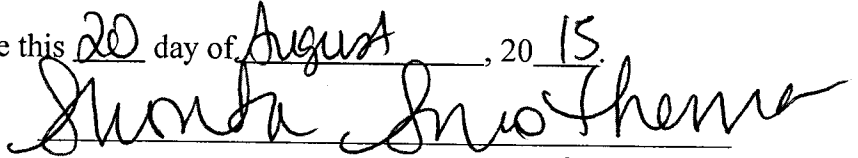
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

Signed this 20 day of August, 2015.

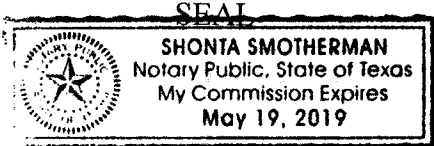


KAREN SUE COCKRILL, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20 day of August, 2015.



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 accept the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 517150, previously issued to KAREN SUE COCKRILL.

Effective this 25th day of August, 2015.



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