

IN THE MATTER OF PERMANENT CERTIFICATE	§ §	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE Direct
NUMBERS	§	OF or of the
AP122816 & RN 867841, ISSUED TO	9 §	Board
WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI	8	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI

7606 ANTOINE DR. HOUSTON, TX 77088

104 INVERRAY CT. S. SLIDELL, LA 70460

MEITRA FARHADI

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

300 WEST 15TH STREET AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on January 21-22, 2016, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order No. 2, *Default Dismissal*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's advanced practice registered nursing and registered nursing licenses by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On October 1, 2015, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on his behalf. During the hearing on October 1, 2015, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Final Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to his last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 2, Default Dismissal, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of Order No. 2, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice advanced practice and professional nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further

finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board has determined that the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's advanced practice registered nursing and registered nursing licenses pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and 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 in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin.Code §213.23(I), as applicable. 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.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Numbers AP122816 and RN 867841, previously issued to WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same are hereby, REVOKED.

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

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 2154 day of January, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of \$ BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Advanced Practice Registered \$
Nurse License Number AP122816 & \$
Permanent Registered Nurse \$
License Number 867841 \$
Issued to WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI, \$
Respondent \$ BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI, is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse holding License Number AP122816 which is in delinquent status at the time of this pleading, and is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 867841 which is in current 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 July 8, 2015, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Eligibility Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on July 18, 2014. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses' (TPAPN) participation agreement, in that he missed three (3) drug tests and multiple check ins. Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order, dated July 18, 2014, states, in pertinent part:

"(3) 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."

On or about July 8, 2015, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred back to the Board.

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 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.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder, which can be found at the Board's website, 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.

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 July 18, 2014.

Filed this 17th day of August, 2015.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Coursel

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 July 18, 2014

D(2015.02.24)

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of
WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI,
PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure

AGREED

ELIGIBILITY ORDER

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boa 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 WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI, 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 waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on January 8, 2014, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- On or about December 1, 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.
- Petitioner waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
- Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from the University of the State of New York, Albany, New York, on May 1, 1994.

Wayne Alongi:063

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- Petitioner completed the Endorsement Application and answered "No" to the question which 4. reads as follows: "For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
 - been convicted of a misdemeanor? A.
 - B. been convicted of a felony?
 - pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty? C.
 - D. received deferred adjudication?
 - been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether E. or not adjudicated guilty?
 - been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement? F.
 - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
 - been arrested or have any pending criminal charges? H.
 - been cited or charged with any violation of the law? I.
 - been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of J. military judgment/punishment/action?

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

5. Petitioner failed to disclose the following criminal history, to wit:

On or about January 25, 2013, Petitioner was arrested by the Jacinto City Police Department, Houston, Texas, for UNLAWFUL POSSESSION DANGEROUS DRUG, a Class A misdemeanor offense. As a result, on or about July 10, 2013, Petitioner signed a one (1) year participation Agreement for Pre-Trial Intervention, for the offense of POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG, a Class A misdemeanor offense, in the County Criminal Court No. 6 of Harris County, Texas, under Cause No. 1874926.

- There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct. 6.
- On or about February 10, 2013, Petitioner signed a participation contract with the Texas Peer 7. Assistance Program for Nurses.
- 8. 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.
- **9**. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Endorsement Application, his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODB §213.27.
- Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional 10. character.
- The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the 11. character factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.

- 12. The Executive Director 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.
- 13. The Executive Director 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.
- 14. 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.
- 15. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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

- The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 301.452 and 301.453, Texas
 Occupations Code.
- 2. On or about December 1, 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 his 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).

<u>ORDER</u>

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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, and said license(s) SHALL BE immediately SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until PETITIONER complies with Stipulation Numbers One (1) and Two (2) of this Order:

- (1) PETITIONER SHALL apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.
- (2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of compliance with Stipulation Numbers One (1) and Two (2), the SUSPENSION will be stayed, and PETITIONER SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for PETITIONER to successfully complete the TPAPN:

- (3) PETITIONER 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.
- (4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

PETITIONER SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and PETITIONER'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.

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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER 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 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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'S license(s) 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 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 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions Orie (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of my potential ineligibility for licensure through peer assistance.

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 EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of my license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, 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 representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.

Signed this 12 day of July 2014.

Wayne Russell Alongi, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12 day of _

SEAL

BHAGIRATH N. PARIKH My Commission Expires July 22, 2015 Notary Public in and for the State of

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 12th day of July, 2014, by WAYNE RUSSELL ALONGI, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 18th day of July, 2014.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board