



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 § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 651289 §
issued to CHRISTOPHER DONALD POOL § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTOPHER DONALD POOL, Registered Nurse License Number 651289, 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)(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 June 8, 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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Temple College, Temple, Texas, on May 1, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 16, 1998.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

6/98 - 7/02	Critical Care RN	King's Daughter Hospital Temple, Texas
6/01 - 7/02	Surgical ICU RN	Scott and White Hospital Temple, Texas
7/02 - 3/06	Surgical ICU RN	Department of Veterans Affairs Temple, Texas
3/06 - 2/14	E.R. Nurse	Department of Veterans Affairs Temple, Texas
9/06 - 8/11	Nurse Supervisor	King's Daughter Hospital Temple, Texas
6/11 - 6/14	Charge Nurse	Correctional Healthcare Company Temple, Texas
6/14 - present	Clinical Education Specialist	GE Healthcare Temple, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as an Emergency Room Nurse with Department of Veterans Affairs, Temple, Texas. At the time of the incident, Respondent had a total of eleven (11) years and seven (7) months as an employee in good standing with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Temple, Texas
7. On or about October 27, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Texas Veterans Health Care Systems, Temple, Texas, Respondent inappropriately stroked Patient R's hair, while saying "it will be okay" repeatedly, even though Patient R requested Respondent to stop.
8. On or about October 27, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Texas Veterans Health Care Systems, Temple, Texas, Respondent inappropriately crouched in front of and began stroking Patient R's outer thigh while Patient R was urinating, even though Patient R asked Respondent to stop and get out of her way.
9. On or about October 27, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Texas Veterans Health Care Systems, Temple, Texas, Respondent lack fitness to practice in that Respondent exhibited impaired behavior while on duty including an altered state of consciousness. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have

caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.

10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through (9), Respondent states he can only speculate that his conduct was entirely a result of a combination of unintended consequences of medication use, illness and lack of sufficient sleep. Respondent took Guaifenesin DM, Zyrtec D and Meloxicam to fight an upper respiratory issues. Respondent got to work at 1530, went to the locker room to get his things (badge and stethoscope) and walked towards the nurses station. This is the last thing he recalls until approximately 1900, at which time he was in the Medical Officers on duty sleep room.
11. In April of 2014, respondent underwent an extensive forensic evaluation by George V. Parker, PhD, LSOTP, who concluded that the observed behavior was neither deliberate nor intentional, and was likely due to medication taken. The patient's adult son and VA medical personnel were present in the room on October 27, 2013, during the reported incident, which in part led Dr. Parker to reach his related conclusion that intentional commission of an offense is atypical in such a scenario. Dr. Parker further concluded that Respondent's personality makeup is not that of an individual who is at risk for committing an offense, that Respondent is not a psychopath, and that the Respondent is not a danger to the public. Additionally, Dr. Parker concluded that Respondent is not likely to repeat such conduct, and that he is capable of conducting himself as in a nurse in compliance with applicable standards of the Nursing Practice Act and the rules of the Texas Board of Nursing.

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)(D).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9) &(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 651289, heretofore issued to CHRISTOPHER DONALD POOL.
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.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. 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 effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **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.

- B. 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/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. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse, providing direct patient care in a licensed healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment with the same employer for all three (3) months will not count towards completion of this requirement. 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 period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- A. **Notifying Present and Future Employers:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- B. **Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five

(5) days of employment as a nurse.

- C. **Indirect Supervision:** 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.
- D. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** 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 and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL **abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all controlled substances,** except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.
- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL **submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, tramadol, and controlled substances.** The Board will provide instructions on how to enroll in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program following the entry of this Order and screening will begin when Respondent obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.

- For the first three (3) month [1st quarter] period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, random screens shall be performed at least once per week.
- For the next three (3) month [2nd quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
- For the next six (6) month period [3rd & 4th quarters], random screens shall be performed at least once per month.
- For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board. Any test result for a period of time in which the RESPONDENT is not working as a nurse under the terms of this Order will not count towards satisfaction of this requirement. All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation/probation period.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances and their metabolites:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens. Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to 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. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

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.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

SUSAN G STERMER
Notary Public - State of Texas
Commission Expires: 09/27/16

Signed this 9th day of August, 2016.

Christopher D Pool
CHRISTOPHER DONALD POOL, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of August, 2016.

SEAL



Susan G Stermer

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

T E Weitz
Timothy E. Weitz, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 10th day of Aug., 2016.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 9th day of August, 2016, by CHRISTOPHER DONALD POOL, Registered Nurse License Number 651289, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of September, 2016.



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