

IN THE MATTER OF	§	BEFORE THE STATE OFFICI
PERMANENT CERTIFICATE NUMBER 197572,	§ §	OF .
ISSUED TO	§ &	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

OPINION AND ORDER

TO:

TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS 284 CR 164 LONG BRANCH, TX 75669

LAURA M. VALDEZ ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE 300 WEST 15TH STREET AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

At the regularly scheduled public meeting of the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee of the Texas Board of Nursing (Committee) on September 13, 2016, the Committee, pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23, considered the following items: (1) Order No. 1, *Granting Motion to Dismiss and Remand,* issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation to the Committee that the Respondent's vocational nursing license be revoked by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Committee regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On June 20, 2016, 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 her behalf. During the hearing on June 20, 2016, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to her 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. 1, *Granting Motion to Dismiss and Remand*, 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 and §2001.058(d-1).

The Committee, after review and due consideration of Order No. 1, 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Committee further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee has determined that the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Committee is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and §2001.058(d-1) and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Committee has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23 and §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Committee 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 Number 197572, previously issued to TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is 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 13th day of September, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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

Katherine a. Thomas

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of	§	BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Vocational Nurse	§	
License Number 197572	§	
Issued to TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS,	§	
Respondent	§	BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 197572, 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 August 7, 2010, Respondent was arrested by the Texas Hwy Patrol Reg 1 Dist B, Tyler, Texas, for DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED/OPEN ALCH CONTAINER, a Class B misdemeanor offense. On or about March 23, 2011, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of the lesser included offense of RECKLESS DRIVING, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on August 7, 2010, in the County Court at Law, Smith County, Texas, under Cause No. 26579. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE II.

On or about June 5, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on June 24, 2012, in the County Court at Law, Panola County, Texas, under Cause No. 27551-C. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Panola County Detention Center for a period of six (6) months; however, imposition of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE III.

On or about June 5, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on August 21, 2012, in the County Court at Law, Panola County, Texas, under Cause No. 27652-C. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Panola County Detention Center for a period of six (6) months; however, imposition of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE IV.

On or about June 5, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on July 31, 2012, in the County Court, Panola County, Texas, under Cause No. 27612-C. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Panola County Detention Center for a period of six (6) months; however, imposition of confinement was suspended and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE V.

On or about June 5, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of No Contest or Guilty to and was convicted of EVADING ARREST DETENTION, a misdemeanor offense, committed on August 21, 2012, in the County Court at Law, Panola County, Texas, under Cause No. 27651-C. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Panola County Jail for a period of one (1) day with credit for time served and credit on court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

CHARGE VI.

On or about June 5, 2013, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of DRIVING W/LIC INV W/PREV CONV/SUSP/W/O FIN RES, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on August 21, 2012, in the County Court at Law, Panola County, Texas, under Cause No. 27650-C. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the County Jail for a period of one (1) day, and ordered to pay court costs.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).

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 and Tex. Occ. Code Ch. 53. 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, <u>www.bon.texas.gov</u>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct and adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies related to Substance Use Disorders and Other Alcohol and Drug Related Conduct;, which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

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NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

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 November 14, 2004.

Filed this 27th day of January, 20 1.6.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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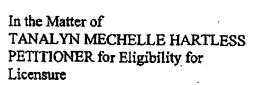
P: (512) 305-8657

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Attachments: Order of the Board dated November 14, 2004.

D(2015.11.18)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS





ORDER OF CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY



On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Te: hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and PETITIONER's Certificate contained herein. Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may have violated Section 301.452 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on September 12, 2004, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about May 11, 2004, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 2. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
- 3. Petitioner graduated with a Diploma in Vocational Nursing from Panola College, Carthage, Texas, in August 2004.

- 4. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
 - A. In 1999, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Theft of Property by Check in the County Court at Law of Panola County, Texas. On August 9, 1999, Petitioner was granted a motion to dismiss the charge.
 - B. On January 19, 2004, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Assault in the County Court at Law of Panola County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to one (1) year probation.
- 5. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
- 6. The Board received letters of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
 - A letter of reference dated May 3, 2004, was submitted on behalf of Petitioner by Rob Shimpock, Adult Probation Officer, Community Supervision and Corrections Department, Carthage, Texas
 - A letter of reference dated May 3, 2004, was submitted on behalf of Petitioner by Varonica Dickerson, RN, BSN, Vocational Nursing Program, Panola College, Carthage, Texas.
 - A letter of reference dated May 4, 2004, was submitted on behalf of Petitioner by Ann Baldree, RN, BSN, Vocational Nursing Program, Panola College, Carthage, Texas.
- 7. 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.
- 8. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
- Petitioner has sworn that her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
- 10. Petitioner has been advised that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect, or misleading will be considered and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through misrepresentation.
- 11. On September 12, 2004, the Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board of Nurse Examiners has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
- 2. Petitioner has submitted a petition in compliance with Section 301.257 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 3. Petitioner's criminal history reflects criminal conduct which is grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 4. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452, 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 Texas Administrative Code §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 6. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon meeting the requirements for graduation and payment of any required fees, TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN® Examination). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Vocational Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et seq., and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER's license is encumbered by this Order the PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where PETITIONER wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon attaining a passing grade on the NCLEX-PN®, shall be issued a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which shall bear the appropriate notation and PETITIONER SHALL be subject to the following stipulations.

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of initial licensure in the State of Texas, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. PETITIONER SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. 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) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'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 on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).

(2) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of initial licensure in the State of Texas, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. PETITIONER SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify PETITIONER's successful completion of the course. 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 on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER PRACTICE AS A VOCATIONAL NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, PETITIONER WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND PETITIONER MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION 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 VOCATIONAL NURSE (VN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

- (3) PETITIONER SHALL notify each present employer in vocational nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER's license. PETITIONER SHALL present a complete copy of this Order to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in vocational nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER's license. PETITIONER SHALL present a complete copy of this Order to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- (4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each present employer in vocational nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Petitioner by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Petitioner by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a vocational nurse.
- Vocational Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as PETITIONER, 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. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- (6) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Petitioner by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER's capability to practice vocational

 Tanalyn Hartless:063

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nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the PETITIONER. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for one (1) year of employment as a vocational nurse.

(7) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE her probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the Petitioner by the Board. The reports shall indicate the PETITIONER's compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until PETITIONER is released from probation.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

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PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past criminal conduct, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Board of Nurse Examiners 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 Petition for Declaratory Order, has been in conformity with the Board's professional character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past behavior 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 petition, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.452(a), (b) and (c), Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rules 213.27, 213.28, and 213.29 at 22 Texas Administrative Code. 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 Graduate Vocational Nurse Permit to practice. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to registering for the NCLEX-PN® Examination or accepting any permit or license from the Board of Nurse Examiners.

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 to practice vocational 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 Executive Director of the Board of Nurse Examiners enter this Order.

Signed this _____ day o

TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, PETITION

Volic in and for the State of

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

day of

ovember 2004.

SEAL

TANYA SPIVEY

Notary Public, State of Texas My Commission Exp. 11-17-2005

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 4th day of November, 2004, by TANALYN MECHELLE HARTLESS, PETITIONER, for Petition for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered this 14th day of November, 2004.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

By:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf of said Board