



Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of § REINSTATEMENT  
Vocational Nurse License Number 305425 §  
issued to NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY § AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement of Vocational Nurse License Number 305425, held by NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

## 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 Petitioner and Petitioner was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Petitioner waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Petitioner received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Vernon College at Wichita Falls, Wichita Falls, Texas, on December 8, 2011. Petitioner was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on January 31, 2012.
4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

12/2011-02/2013	LVN	Midwestern Healthcare Wichita Falls, Texas
04/2014-11/2014	LVN	Kinder Hearts Wichita Falls, Texas
12/2014-04/2016	LVN	Courtyard Gardens Wichita Falls, Texas
5. On or about February 9, 2016, Petitioner's license to practice nursing was revoked through an Order of the Board. A copy of the Order of the Board, dated February 9, 2016, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
6. On or about March 1, 2017, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

7. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
  - 7.1. Letter of support from Claudia Huerta, LVN, Assistant Director of Nursing, Courtyard Gardens, Wichita Falls, Texas, states Petitioner had an outstanding work ethic during the time period of employment from 12/12/2014 through 4/6/2016. Petitioner has good standing with the company.
  - 7.2. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.
8. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character and relicensure.
9. Relicensure 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.
10. The Executive Director's review of Petitioner's eligibility for relicensure has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Pursuant to Section 301.467, Texas Occupations Code, the Board may refuse to issue or renew a license, and may set a reasonable period that must lapse before reapplication. Pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26, the Board may impose reasonable conditions that a Petitioner must satisfy before reissuance of an unrestricted license.
3. 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 her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
4. 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).

## TERMS OF ORDER

### I. REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the state of Texas be **GRANTED** and Vocational Nurse License Number 305425 is hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

### II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND APPLICABILITY

While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER agrees to obtain, read, and 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.

- A. 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.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER wishes to work.

### III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, Petitioner SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) within one (1) year of relicensure, 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), Petitioner 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. Petitioner 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

#### IV. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, Petitioner must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical 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:** Petitioner 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, Petitioner 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:** Petitioner 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. Petitioner 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:** Petitioner 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 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 Petitioner 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.
- D. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** 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 nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the Petitioner and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual 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. **RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)**

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.

PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Reinstatement Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my Petition for Reinstatement of Licensure, 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 convictions, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

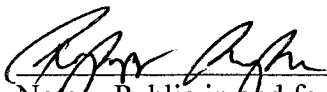
I have reviewed this Order. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to reinstating my license(s) to practice nursing in the state of Texas. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas will be revoked, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

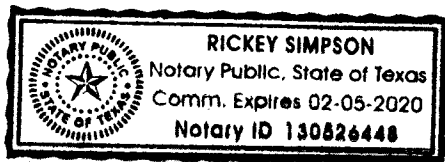
Signed this 10 day of June, 2017.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY, Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of June, 2017.

SEAL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the 10th day of June, 2017, by NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY, Vocational Nurse License Number 305425, and said Order is final.

Effective this 20th day of July, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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

IN THE MATTER OF PERMANENT  
PERMANENT VOCATIONAL NURSE  
LICENSE NUMBER 305425  
ISSUED TO NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY,  
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.  
*Stephanie C. Johnson*  
Executive Director of the Board

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO: NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY  
5325 NORTHVIEW DR  
WICHITA FALLS, TX 76306

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 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 305425, previously issued to NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY, 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 9th day of February, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:



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

Attachment: Formal Charge filed September 30, 2015.

d17r(2014.12.05)

Re: Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 305425  
Issued to NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY  
DEFAULT ORDER - REVOKE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 20 16, 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

NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY  
5325 NORTHVIEW DR  
WICHITA FALLS, TX 76306

BY:



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

In the Matter of  
Permanent Vocational Nurse  
License Number 305425  
Issued to NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY,  
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS  
§  
§  
§  
§ BOARD OF NURSING

### FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, NICOLE RAE MAHAFFEY, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 305425, 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 October 29, 2014, October 30, 2014, and November 1, 2014, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Kinder Hearts Home Health, LLC, Abilene, Texas, Respondent falsified Pediatric Skilled Nursing Care 24 Hour Flowsheets for Patient Number 0414200350. Additionally, Respondent falsified the patient care giver's signature on the flowsheets, and submitted fraudulent time sheets for hours she did not actually work. Respondent's conduct created inaccurate medical records and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to base their decisions for further care. Additionally, Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud and deceive the facility of monies paid to Respondent for hours not actually worked.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 217.11(1)(A), (1)(B) & (1)(D), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 217.12(1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), (4), (6)(A) & (6)(H).

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 to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies related to Behavior Involving Lying and Falsification; and related to Behavior Involving Fraud, Theft, and Deception, which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of 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, 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

Filed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

R. Kyle Hensley

James W. Johnston, General Counsel  
Board Certified - Administrative Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel  
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