



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.
A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 824669 §
issued to PAIGE NICHOLLE RUZIC § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PAIGE NICHOLLE RUZIC, Registered Nurse License Number 824669, 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)&(13), 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 July 24, 2017.

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 a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, on May 20, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 9, 2012.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

09/2012 - 12/2013	RN	Covenant Health Systems Lubbock, Texas
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

01/2014 - 08/2014	RN	John Peter Smith Hospital Fort Worth, Texas
09/2014 - 10/2014	Unknown	
11/2014 - 10/2015	RN	Methodist Mansfield Mansfield, Texas
11/2015 - 12/2015	Unknown	
01/2016 - 09/2016	RN	Baylor Scott & White Medical Center Waxahachie, Texas
10/2016 - 03/2017	RN	Texas Health Heart & Vascular Hospital Arlington, Texas
04/2017 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and had been in that position for six (6) months.
7. On or about July 31, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone from the medication dispensing system for Patient Medical Record Number 10159740, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
8. On or about July 31, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, Respondent misappropriated 1mg of Hydromorphone from Patient Medical Record Number 10159740, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.
9. On or about July 31, 2016, through August 1, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, Respondent failed to administer Morphine to Patient Medical Record Number 10159740 as ordered by a physician. More specifically, the physician's order called for 4 milligrams of Morphine to be administered intravenously every two hours as needed for a moderate pain level of four through ten; however, Respondent documented she

administered Morphine to the patient when the pain level was three or less, or when a pain assessment had not been conducted. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to administer medication as ordered by a physician could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.

10. On or about July 31, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, Respondent failed to appropriately document pain assessments and/or reassessments in the medical record of Patient Medical Record Number 10159740. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have complete information on which to base their care decisions.
11. On or about July 31, 2016, through August 1, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Waxahachie, Texas, and assigned to the Intensive Care Unit, Respondent falsely documented in the patient's Medication Administration Record (MAR) that she administered pain medication to Patient Medical Record Number 10159740, in that the patient denied receiving any pain medication. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record and failure to administer medication as ordered by the physician could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
12. On or about November 19, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Heart and Vascular Hospital, Arlington, Texas, Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone for Patient Medical Record Number 5820025713 on two (2) occasions but failed to properly secure the medication, in that she did not administer and/or waste the medication for up to four (4) hours after withdrawing them.

Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.

13. On or about March 1, 2017, through March 2, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Heart and Vascular Hospital, Arlington, Texas, Respondent failed to administer Morphine 4mg/Inj to patient Medical Record Number 5820026885 as ordered by a physician. More specifically, the physician's order called for 4 milligrams of Morphine to be administered intravenously every hour as needed for a pain level of seven through ten; however, Respondent administered Morphine to the patient when the pain level was at five, or when a pain assessment had not been conducted. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to administer medications as ordered by a physician could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
14. On or about March 1, 2017, through March 2, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Heart and Vascular Hospital, Arlington, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately document pain assessments and/or reassessments in the medical record of Patient Medical Record Number 5820026885. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from clinical care decisions formulated based upon incomplete assessment

information.

15. On or about March 2, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Heart and Vascular Hospital, Arlington, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of morphine in that she produced a specimen for a for cause drug screen that resulted positive for opiates. Unlawful possession of morphine is prohibited by Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health & Safety Code. The use of Opiates by a Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in a patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing a patient in potential danger.
16. 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.
17. Formal Charges were filed on May 12, 2017.
18. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on May 18, 2017.
19. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
20. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
21. 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 substance use disorder.
22. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

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 §217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C)&(1)(D) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(5),(6)(A),(6)(H),(6)(G),(8),(10)(A),(10)(B),(10)(C),

(10)(D),(10)(E)&(11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 824669, heretofore issued to PAIGE NICHOLLE RUZIC, 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. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 824669, previously issued to PAIGE NICHOLLE RUZIC, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **ENFORCED** until Respondent:

- A. Applies to, is accepted into, and completes enrollment in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), including payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00); and
- B. Waives confidentiality and provides a copy of the fully executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the above requirements, the Suspension will be **STAYED**, and RESPONDENT will be placed on **PROBATION** for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the TPAPN **AND** until Respondent fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

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

- D. 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.
- E. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.
- F. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- G. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- H. 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 suspension being stayed:**

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.

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. FURTHER COMPLAINTS

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

V. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE

SHOULD RESPONDENT 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 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.

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.

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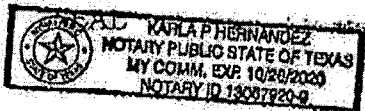
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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. 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 entry of this Order and all conditions of said Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, and 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 revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 25 day of July, 2017.

Paige Nicotolle Ruzic
PAIGE NICOTOLLE RUZIC, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of July, 2017.



Karla P. Hernandez
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 ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 25th day of July, 2017, by PAIGE NICHOLLE RUZIC, Registered Nurse License Number 824669, and said Order is final.

Effective this 25th day of July, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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