

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ REINSTATEMENT Vocational Nurse License Number 202741 \$ issued to GINA L. JOHNSON \$ AGREED ORDER

On this day came to be considered by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, the Petition for Reinstatement of Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, held by GINA L. JOHNSON, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

An informal conference was held on June 9, 2015, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code.

Petitioner appeared in person. Petitioner was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. In attendance were Kristin Benton, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing, Executive Director's Designee; John Griffith, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; and Diane E. Burell, Investigator.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Prior to 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 representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Petitioner received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas, on December 20, 2005. Petitioner was originally licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 7, 2006.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

2006 - 2011

LVN

Lakeshore Village Waco, Texas

- 5. On October 25, 2011, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of Petitioner's license(s) to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas. A copy of the October 25, 2011, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as a part of this Order.
- 6. On or about September 15, 2014, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 7. Petitioner presented the following in support of her petition:
 - 7.1. Order, dated August 13, 2014, granting Petitioner's release from probation under Cause No. 2010-1389-C2.
 - 7.2. Letter of support, dated August 28, 2014, from Maranda M. Knox, Administrator, Ridgecrest Retirement and Health Care, Waco, Texas, stating she has known Petitioner professionally for several years and had the opportunity to work with her in one of her previous facilities. She explains Petitioner displayed a high degree of integrity, responsibility, compassion and ambition. Ms. Knox describes Petitioner as a leader rather than a follower and has displayed these characteristics while successfully performing her duties as a charge nurse in a large senior living community. She feels Petitioner has proven her leadership ability consistently enriching the lives of those she serves through compassion, respect, excellence and integrity. Ms. Knox states Petitioner is also a most dependable team player and has been willing to assist others to follow the same path to success. She believes her good judgment and mature outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to her endeavors.
 - 7.2. Letter of support, dated August 28, 2014, from Elizabeth Valdez, Business Office Manager, Town Hall Estate Inc., Hillsboro, Texas, stating she has known Petitioner for six (6) years; they met while working at a LTC Nursing Facility. She states Petitioner is a great nurse with true spark, and a dedicated, energetic and positive person in whatever she undertakes. Petitioner is a true friend, an awesome care giver and she admires her huge heart in loving what she does with such compassion.
 - 7.3. Letter of support, dated August 28, 2014, from Laura D. Blackmon, LVN, Robinson, Texas, stating she has been a nurse for over twenty (20) years and has known Petitioner for ten (10) years when she worked as her Assistant Director of Nursing. She states, during that time, Petitioner was a valued employee and friend. They shared many things in common but the foremost was the fact that Petitioner helped in taking care of her handicapped sister. Ms. Blackmon also has a handicapped family member and knows the love and devotion it takes to ensure they fulfill a good quality of life. She says Petitioner is compassionate, caring, oriented to detail and works well with others. Ms. Blackmon would have no reservation hiring Petitioner as a nurse.
 - 7.4. Verification of successful completion of the required continuing education contact hours.

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.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of GINA L. JOHNSON, Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, to practice nursing in the state of Texas, be and the same is hereby GRANTED, AND SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS SO LONG AS THE PETITIONER complies 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 the stipulations contained in this Order:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Petitioner to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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(s) is/are 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 State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Petitioner wishes to work.

- (1) PETITIONER SHALL pay all re-registration fees and be issued a license to practice nursing in the State of Texas, which shall bear the appropriate notation. Said licenses issued to GINA L. JOHNSON, shall be subject to the following agreed post-licensure stipulations:
- (2) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of relicensure, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. PETITIONER SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. 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) 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. 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 at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.
- (3) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of relicensure, successfully complete 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 program, PETITIONER SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. 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 at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER CHOOSE TO WORK AS A NURSE IN TEXAS, PETITIONER WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. 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 STIPULATION PERIOD:

- (4) PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER'S license(s). PETITIONER SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- (5) 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 nurse.
- (6) For the duration of the stipulation period, 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.

- (7) 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 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) month period for two (2) year(s) of employment as a nurse.
- (8) PETITIONER SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER 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.
- (9) PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be

performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines Barbiturates

Benzodiazepines Cannabinoids

Cocaine Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Meperidine

Methadone Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine Propoxyphene

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

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. PETITIONER SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject the nurse to 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. 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.

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.

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 to practice professional 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 3 day of July, 2015.

GINA L. JOHNSON, Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13^{TH} day of \overline{Juuy}

NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Expires 07-08-2018

Notary Public in and for the State of 7

Notary Public in and for the State of ____

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>13th</u> day of <u>July</u>, 2015, by GINA L. JOHNSON, Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, and said Order is final.

Effective this 11th day of August, 2015.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

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Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse License Number 202741

§ § AGREED

issued to GINA L. JOHNSON

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ORDER

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Boar accepted the voluntary surrender of Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, issued to GINA L. JOHNSON, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was provided to 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas on December 20, 2005. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 7, 2006.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about March 16, 2011, Respondent plead guilty to "Possession of Marihuana Over Four Ounces Under Five Pounds," a State Jail Felony (committed on August 13, 2010), in the 54th District Court of McLennan County, Texas, under Cause Number 2010-1389-C2.

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- An adjudication of guilt was deferred, and Respondent was placed on community supervision for a period of five (5) years.
- 7. Regarding the conduct outlined in Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states that she has never been in any criminal trouble other than a traffic ticket. She states that she does not do drugs of any kind, and she has never sold drugs. She states that she can't help the choices her husband made.
- 8. Respondent, by her signature to this Order, expresses her desire to voluntarily surrender her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 9. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 10. 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.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove a violation of Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.453(a), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, heretofore issued to GINA L. JOHNSON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas

Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, heretofore issued to GINA L. JOHNSON, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice vocational nursing, use the title "vocational nurse" or the abbreviation "LVN" or wear any insignia identifying herself as a vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a vocational nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
- Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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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 alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, 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 this Order becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

Signed this Aday of Oct., 20/.

OINA L. JOHNSON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this // day of _______, 20_/__.

My Commission Expires August 02, 2013

Notary Public in and for the State of ITMS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Vocational Nurse License Number 202741, previously issued to GINA L. JOHNSON.



Effective this 25th day of October, 2011.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN Executive Director on behalf

of said Board