#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Advanced Practice Registered § AGREED Nurse License Number AP115077 and §

Nurse License Number AP115077 and §
Registered Nurse License Number 724524 §

issued to BARBARA ANN TUITELE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BARBARA ANN TUITELE, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115077, and Registered Nurse License Number 724524, 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)(2)&(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on July 17, 2014, subject to ratification by the Board.

### **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 informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas. Respondent is currently licensed to practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 1, 1987, and a Master's Degree in Nursing from the Uniformed Services University of Health Science, Bethesda, Maryland, on June 1, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 8, 2006. Respondent became Board recognized as a Family Nurse Practitioner on February 24, 2006, and received prescriptive authority on June 23, 2006.

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.

\*\*ASS\*\*

Executive Director of the Board\*\*

I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which accurately a

- 5. Respondent's complete nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about February 1, 2010, Respondent submitted a License Renewal Form RN/APN to the Texas Board of Nursing in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:

- A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
- B. been convicted of a felony?
- C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
- D. received deferred adjudication?
- E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
- F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
- G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
- H. been arrested or any pending criminal charges?
- I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
- J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation, or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?"

Respondent failed to disclose that, on or about July 28, 2008, Respondent entered a plea of No Contest or Nolo Contendere to the reduced charge of ASSAULT BODILY INJURY FAMILY, a Class C misdemeanor offense committed on or about April 8, 2008, in the County Court No. 7, Bexar County, Texas, under Cause No. 248862. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of ninety (90) days and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

- 7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states she did not report the offense because she did not realize she was supposed to.
- 8. On or about January 22, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Nolo Contendere and was found Guilty of DWI W/BAC 0.15 OR HIGHER, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on or about October 26, 2013, in the County Court No. 15, Bexar County, Texas, under Cause No. 441692. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Bexar County Jail for a period of six (6) months; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of nine (9) months and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

#### 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)(I)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115077, and Registered Nurse License Number 724524, heretofore issued to BARBARA ANN TUITELE, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

## **ORDER**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS AND A FINE, and RESPONDENT SHALL 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.

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 Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not 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 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. RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT'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/compliance.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, 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, RESPONDENT 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance">http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</a>.

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(3) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars. RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

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

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT 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) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- (6) Should RESPONDENT choose to work as a Registered Nurse without utilizing her Advanced Practice Authorization as a Family Nurse Practitioner, 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.
- (7) Should RESPONDENT choose to work as a Family Nurse Practitioner, RESPONDENT'S practice must be monitored for one (1) year by a Physician. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. RESPONDENT SHALL ensure that the monitor submits reports, addressing RESPONDENT'S progress in overcoming these deficiencies

to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for the one (1) year stipulation period. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(8) 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 or Physician who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that 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 have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) 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 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 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 12 day of August, 2014.

BARBARA ANN TUITELE, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of august, 2014.

**SEAL** 

Notary Public in and for the State of Jeles

PAM SHEEHAN
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
My Comm. Exp. 04-24-2018

Approved as to form and substance.

Katie Croft-Walsh, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this  $12^{+}$  day of August, 2014.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>12th</u> day of <u>August</u>, 20<u>14</u>, by BARBARA ANN TUITELE, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115077, and Registered Nurse License Number 724524, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of September , 20 14.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board