BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of

Registered Nurse License Number 687182

issued to PATRICIA ANNE EWALT

REINSTATEMENT § § § AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement of Registered Nurse License Number 687182, held by PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement of Registered Nurse License Number 687182, held by PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner. Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agree to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on November 30, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these 1. 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.
- Petitioned received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, 3. Missouri, on May 13, 2000. Petitioner was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 28, 2002.
- Petitioner's nursing employment history includes: 4.

2000-2002

RN-OB

Capital Region Medical Center Jefferson City, Missouri

Petitioner's employment history continued:

RN-L&D	Providence Memorial Hospital , Tenet Corp. El Paso, Texas
RN-OB	Capital Region Medical Center Jefferson City, Missouri
RN-L&D	Providence Memorial Hospital, Tenet Corp. El Paso, Texas
RN-OB	St. Mary's Medical Center Jefferson City, Missouri
RN-L&D	Sierra Medical Center, Tenet Corp. El Paso, Texas
RN-L&D	Providence Memorial Hospital, Tenet Corp. El Paso, Texas
RN-Camp Clinic Director	Wonderland Camp Rocky Mount, Missouri
RN-L&D	The Hospitals of Providence Sierra Campus, Tenet Corp. El Paso, Texas
	RN-OB RN-L&D RN-OB RN-L&D RN-L&D RN-L&D Clinic Director

- 5. On or about April 8, 2016, Petitioner voluntarily surrendered her license to practice nursing through an Order of the Board. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order dated April 8, 2016, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 6. On or about September 28, 2017, 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 said petition:
 - 7.1. Letter of recommendation dated October 11, 2017 from Jill Wilke, MS, RN, CPLC, President of the Board, Wonderland Camp, stating Petitioner worked as RN Clinical Director. Petitioner was a caring, smart, and efficient nurse. Ms. Wilkes further states she would hire Petitioner back in a heartbeat.

- 7.2. Letter of recommendation from Jason Hynson, Executive Director, Victory Mission, Inc., stating Petitioner was an outstanding performer and diligent worker. Petitioner was hardworking, creative, teachable, has undeniable talent, and was a team player.
- 7.3. Letter of recommendation dated October 15, 2017 from Rose Blankenship, LPN, stating is a team player, honest, dependable, and incredibly hard-working.
- 7.4. 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 PATRICIA ANNE EWALT for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the state of Texas be **GRANTED** and Registered Nurse License Number 687182 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. As a result of this Order, PETITIONER'S license(s) will be designated "single state" and PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

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 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 <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at <u>www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</u>.

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. 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. Incident Reporting: Petitioner SHALL CAUSE each employer to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving Petitioner, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by Petitioner, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- 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, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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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 22 day of Nove

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22mday

KATHLENE W. GILSTRAP Notary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 10-04-2020

Notary ID 8803333

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>22nd</u> day of <u>December</u>, 20<u>17</u>, by PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, Registered Nurse License Number 687182, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of February, 2018.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 687182	§ 8	§ AGREED § ORDER)	tive Director
issued to PATRICIA ANNE EWALT	§			of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, Registered Nurse License Number 687182, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived 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 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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, on May 13, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 28, 2002.
- 5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about February 11, 2014, Respondent was arrested and charged with CONSPIRACY, MARRIAGE FRAUD, Count 1 FALSE STATEMENT RELATING TO NATURALIZATION, FALSE SWEARING IN AN IMMIGRATION MATTER, and ATTEMPT TO UNLAWFULLY PROCURE CITIZENSHIP OR NATURALIZATION, all Felony offenses. On or about January 25, 2016, the above charges were dismissed on the motion of the United States, in the United States District Court Western District of Missouri Central Division under Cause No. 12-04041-02-CR-C-SRB.

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On or about January 25, 2016, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of FALSE STATEMENTS RELATED TO NATURALIZATION, a felony offense committed on February 11, 2014, in the United States District Court Western District of Missouri Central Division under Cause No. 12-04041-02-CR-C-SRB. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was placed on probation for a period of three (3) years and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

- 7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states she trusted her husband to complete his immigration documents truthfully and signed them without reading or questioning them. Respondent believed and trusted him to do the right thing. Respondent has since divorced him and he has since left the country.
- 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.

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(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 687182, heretofore issued to PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, 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. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 7. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 8. 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.

TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the VOLUNTARY

SURRENDER of Registered Nurse License Number 687182, heretofore issued to PATRICIA

ANNE EWALT, 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 professional/registered nursing, use the title. "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered 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.
- 3. 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(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this 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 day of (mil., 20 / 6	, ,
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PATRICIA ANNE EWALT, Respondent	-

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of April , 20 11e.

REBECCA M. GILSTRAP
Notary Public, State of Texas
Comm. Expires 07-10-2019
Notary ID 130290424

Notary Public in and for the State of True

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 687182, previously issued to PATRICIA ANNE EWALT.

Effective this 8th day of April, 2016.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board