



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.  
*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of	§	AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 769407	§	
issued to MELANIE JOAN LUDIG	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MELANIE JOAN LUDIG, Registered Nurse License Number 769407, 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)(10)&(12), 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 March 19, 2018.

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 from El Centro College, Dallas, Texas, on May 14, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 11, 2009.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

07/2009 - 02/2013	RN	UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, Texas
03/2013 - 02/2015	RN	Supplemental Healthcare Park City, Utah

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

02/2015 - 08/2016	RN	Onward Healthcare Wilton, Connecticut
09/2016	Unknown	
10/2016 - 02/2017	RN	Aya Healthcare San Diego, California
03/2017 - Present	RN	Trustaff Healthcare Cincinnati, Ohio

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Trustaff Healthcare, Cincinnati, Ohio, and had been in that position four (4) months.
7. On or about September 14, 2017, Respondent was noticed for the following allegations:

On or about July 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Trustaff and on assignment at Mary Washington Healthcare, Fredericksburg, Virginia, Respondent misappropriated Dilaudid and Morphine belonging to the facility and patients thereof in that she admitted to diverting narcotics.

On or about July 2017, Respondent may have lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she self reported that she had a substance abuse problem.
8. On or about February 26, 2018, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to SOLICITATION TO UNLAWFULLY POSSESS A NARCOTIC DRUG, a class six undesignated offense committed on January 7, 2017, in the court of Pima County, Arizona, under Cause No. CR-20175393-001. As a result of the plea Respondent was placed on community supervision for a period of three (3) years and ordered to a pay fine and court costs.
9. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) Respondent admits to misappropriating narcotics and having a substance abuse problem.
10. 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.
11. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
12. 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.
13. 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 §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(G),(8),(10)(E)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 769407, heretofore issued to MELANIE JOAN LUDIG, 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 769407, previously issued to MELANIE JOAN LUDIG, 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);
- B. Is cleared to safely practice as a nurse based on a fitness evaluation, as may be required by TPAPN; and
- C. 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.

- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.
- G. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- H. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- I. As a result of this Order, Respondent's license(s) will be designated "single state" and Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

## **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](http://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. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the Respondent's conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Order, result in subsequent judicial action, including a deferred disposition, Respondent may be subject to further disciplinary action, up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

**VII. 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, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, 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 20 day of MARCH, 2018  
MELANIE JOAN LUDWIG, RespondentSworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of MARCH, 2018.

SEAL

  
Notary Public in and for the State of OKLAHOMA

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 20th day of March, 2018, by MELANIE JOAN LUDIG, Registered Nurse License Number 769407, and said Order is final.

Effective this 20th day of March, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine A. Thomas".

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