



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

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of	§	AGREED
NATHAN RYAN ECKLES,	§	
PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure	§	ELIGIBILITY ORDER

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo: , considered the Endorsement Application, which has been processed as a Petition for Declaratory Order, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30, and supporting documents filed by NATHAN RYAN ECKLES, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and Petitioner's Certification contained herein.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may be ineligible for licensure pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(12) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on February 28, 2018.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about November 11, 2017, Petitioner submitted the Petition requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure.
2. Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from South Seattle Community College, Seattle, Washington, on August 1, 2013.

3. Petitioner completed the Petition and answered "Yes" to the question which reads as follows:  
*"Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"*
4. Petitioner provided documentation of treatment to the Board from the following:
  - On May 8, 2017, Petitioner was admitted to Lakeside-Milam Recovery Center for inpatient treatment for chemical dependency, with treatment ending on June 5, 2017.
  - On June 6, 2017, Petitioner was admitted to Lakeside-Milam Recovery Center for Intensive Outpatient for chemical dependency, after transferring from inpatient treatment on June 5, 2017. Petitioner was transferred to Phase II of treatment on July 10, 2017, with successful completion of Phase II of his treatment on January 31, 2018.
  - On or about November 11, 2017, Petitioner signed a five (5) year contract with the Washington Health Professional Services (WHPS).
5. The safety of patients and the public requires that all persons licensed to practice nursing be fit, sober, and able to consistently practice nursing in autonomous roles under demanding and stressful conditions.
6. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Petition, his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27.
7. 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.
8. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's substance use disorder, and subsequent rehabilitation as provided in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 and in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33.
9. Petitioner's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.
10. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
11. Petitioner has been advised by the Board that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading to the Board or a subsequent discovery of a basis of ineligibility will be considered by the Board and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through fraud or deceit.

12. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 301.452 and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
2. On or about November 11, 2017, Petitioner submitted the Petition requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.257, and 301.260, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.5(f) and §213.30.
3. Petitioner's history reflects conduct which may constitute grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code.
4. The Board may probate the denial of a license under conditions for a specified term pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
5. The Board may license an individual who has a history of substance use disorder after consideration of the criteria set out in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 if the Board determines the individual does not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
6. 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 his conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
7. 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.
8. 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).

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

## **TERMS OF ORDER**

### **I. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that the petition of PETITIONER is hereby **GRANTED**, and upon payment of the required fees and meeting all other applicable requirements, PETITIONER SHALL be issued the applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, and while under the terms of this Order, all licenses issued to PETITIONER shall be subject to the terms of this Order and said license(s) SHALL BE immediately **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **ENFORCED** until PETITIONER:

- 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 PETITIONER will be placed on **PROBATION** for such a time as is required for PETITIONER to successfully complete the TPAPN **AND** until PETITIONER fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

- C. 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.
- D. PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

- F. Until successfully completed, any and all licenses issued to Petitioner shall be subject to the terms of this Order.
- G. This Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- H. As a result of this Order, PETITIONER'S license will be designated "single state" and PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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), 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 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. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE**

SHOULD PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'S license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

**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 PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

### PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past conduct which could constitute grounds for licensure ineligibility, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my application/petition, has been in conformity with the Board's character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past conduct in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my application, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Sections 301.157(d), 301.252, 301.253, 301.257, 301.258, 301.260, 301.452, and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§213.27, 213.28, 213.29, and 213.30. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Temporary Permit to practice nursing. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to accepting any license from the Texas Board of Nursing.

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 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (I) through Five (V) of this Order to obtain disposition of my potential ineligibility for licensure through peer assistance.

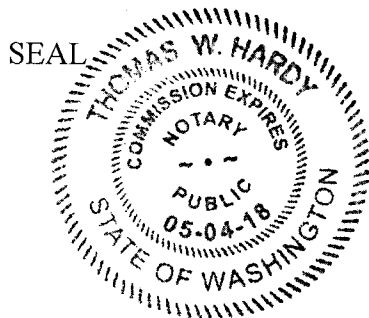
I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of my license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation by counsel, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.

Signed this 21 day of March, 2018.

Nathan Ryan Eckles  
NATHAN RYAN ECKLES, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21 day of March, 2018.



Thomas W Hardy  
Notary Public in and for the State of Washington

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Eligibility Order that was signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2018, by NATHAN RYAN ECKLES, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

---

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