



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 Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED
Nurse License Number AP118169 with	§	
Prescription Authorization Number 8390,	§	
Registered Nurse License Number 554838, and	§	
Vocational Nurse License Number 26756	§	
issued to VERNA MAE JONES	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of VERNA MAE JONES, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP118169 with Prescription Authorization Number 8390, Registered Nurse License Number 554838, and Vocational Nurse License Number 26756 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)&(13), 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 January 11, 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in inactive status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.

4. Respondent received a Certificate in Nursing from Refugio County Hospital School of Vocational Nursing, Refugio, Texas, on January 12, 1963, received Diploma in Nursing from Victoria College, Victoria, Texas on May 15, 1989, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, on December 15, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 22, 1963, was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 25, 1989, and was licensed to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the role of adult nurse practitioner with prescriptive authority in the State of Texas on September 2, 2009.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1962 - Present	RN Full Time	Refugio County Memorial Hospital Refugio, Texas
2009 - 2012	APRN Part Time	Serenity Wellness and General Medicine Houston, Texas
2013 - 2015	APRN Part Time	Red Oak Wellness, a.k.a. Wellness at Red Oak Houston, Texas
2015	APRN/ Owner	Houston West Clinic, f.k.a. West Medical Clinic Houston, Texas
2015	APRN Part Time	Cornerstone Health & Diagnostics, a.k.a. Cornerstone Pain Relief and Wellness Center Houston, Texas
2015	APRN Part Time	Xhilarate Wellness Spa, f.k.a. Xhilarate Wellness & Spa Houston, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as an Adult Nurse Practitioner at Red Oak Wellness, also known as Wellness at Red Oak, Houston, Texas.

7. During the time period of April 8, 2013, through January 20, 2015, while practicing as an Adult Nurse Practitioner at Red Oak Wellness, also known as Wellness at Red Oak, Houston, Texas, Respondent's practice fell below the minimum standards of nursing practice in that she engaged in non-therapeutic prescribing practices. Respondent issued prescriptions for controlled substances to the following patients: EA, CD, CH, OH, HH, JJ, JeJ, LJ, LmJ, AK, TL, DM, MN, and MP, without conducting appropriate assessments to justify her prescribing practices and/or exploring/ordering other treatment options in lieu of prescribing dangerous controlled substances to your patients. Further, Respondent failed to collaborate, and/or completely/accurately document collaboration with a delegating/collaborating

physician in the patients' medical records; failed to appropriately monitor her patients for abusive and/or drug seeking behavior; and failed to completely/accurately document in the patients' medical files.

8. On or about January 29, 2015, through October 20, 2015, while licensed as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and owner of Houston West Clinic, formerly known as West Medical Clinic, Houston, Texas, Respondent illegally owned and operated a pain clinic not registered with the Texas Medical Board as required by Chapter 168 of the Texas Occupations Code. Respondent lacks the requisite education, experience, and knowledge to treat chronic pain or pain management.
9. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states there is no reason she would begin writing prescriptions without assessing clients at this stage of her life and career. Respondent states she has never written prescriptions for clients without performing a thorough assessment for their compliance. Respondent states she has never given anyone permission to use her DEA number to prescribe any medication for clients that someone else may or may not have provided medical or nursing care to. Respondent states she has assessed and interviewed each client for signs of substance abuse and has obtained urine drugs screens and DPS reports. Respondent states she dismissed clients found to have been doctor shopping.

#### 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 §§ 217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(M),(1)(R),(1)(T)&(4)(effective 11/15/2007 to Current); 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(E),(4)&(11)(B)(effective 9/28/2004 to Current); 222.10(a)(effective 11/20/2013 to Current); 221.12 (effective 2/25/2001 to Current); 221.13 (effective 2/25/2001 to Current); 221.17(b)(effective 2/25/2001 to Current); 222.4(a)&(b)(effective 2/14/2010 to 11/19/2013); 222.4(a)(effective 11/20/2013 to Current); 222.5 (11/20/2013 to Current); 222.6 (effective 2/14/2010 to 11/19/2013); 222.8(b)(1)&(b)(2)(effective 11/20/2013 to Current); 222.8 (effective 2/14/2010 to 11/19/2013); and 228.1 (effective 2/23/2014 to Current).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP118169 with Prescription Authorization Number 8390, Registered Nurse License Number 554838, and Vocational Nurse License Number 26756, heretofore issued

to VERNA MAE JONES, 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.

### TERMS OF ORDER

#### **I. SANCTION**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, that the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP118169 with Prescription Authorization Number 8390, heretofore issued to VERNA MAE JONES, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- A. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice advanced practice nursing or prescribe or order any medication, dangerous drug, prescription drug, non-prescription drug, or controlled substance, use or wear any title or insignia identifying herself as an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority during the period in which her advanced practice authorization and prescriptive authority are surrendered.
- B. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP118169 with Prescriptive Authorization Number 8390, previously issued to VERNA MAE JONES, to practice nursing in Texas are hereby VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED. Further, RESPONDENT SHALL surrender all DEA (United States Drug Enforcement Administration) Controlled Substances Registration Certificate(s) and/or DPS (Texas Department of Public Safety) Controlled Substances Registration Certificate(s) and/or any other government issued certificates or authorizations to prescribe controlled substances, if any, within fourteen (14) days of the entry of this Order
- C. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of her advanced practice authorization and prescriptive authority until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
- D. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for advanced practice authorization and prescriptive authority recognition, which, if granted, would include, at a minimum, the completion of a Board approved course in pain management.

FURTHER, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 554838 and Vocational Nurse License Number 26756 previously issued to VERNA MAE JONES, to practice nursing in Texas are hereby **SUSPENDED** with the suspension **STAYED** and Respondent is hereby placed on **PROBATION**, in accordance with the terms of this Order, for a minimum of two (2) years **AND** until Respondent fulfills the requirements of this Order.

- D. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- E. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- F. 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 AND APPLICABILITY

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 courses **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **A 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. **A Board-approved course in nursing documentation** that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. **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), 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. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL **pay a monetary fine in the amount of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of the effective date 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.

#### V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a licensed

vocational nurse or registered 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 eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as a licensed vocational nurse or registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a registered nurse (RN) license 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:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- B. **Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT 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 for Current Position as a Registered Nurse with Refugio County Memorial Hospital, Refugio, Texas:** For so long as Respondent remains employed as a Registered Nurse with Refugio County Memorial Hospital, Refugio, Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE Refugio County Memorial Hospital to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- D. **Indirect Supervision should Respondent's employment as a Registered Nurse with Refugio County Memorial Hospital, Refugio, Texas, cease or change:** Should Respondent's employment as a Registered Nurse with Refugio County Memorial Hospital, Refugio, Texas, cease or change while under the terms of this Order, 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, for the remainder of the probation period, if any. 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.

- E. Nursing Performance Evaluations:** 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT 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 eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse.

## **VI. 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.

## **VII. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S) AND/OR FULL PRESCRIBING AUTHORIZATION**

With the exception of RESPONDENT'S Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number and Prescription Authorization, upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all other 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.

- A.** RESPONDENT shall not petition the Board for the authority to prescribe controlled substances until RESPONDENT has successfully completed all of the terms and requirements of this Order.



- B. Upon petitioning for reinstatement of authority to prescribe controlled substances, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements in addition to having completed ten (10) hours of continuing education (CE) approved by the Board that relates to diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain. The topics covered by such CE must include: risk assessment, urine drug testing, addictions, evidence based conservative treatment options, care of patients with mental health co-morbidities and accidental lethal drug overdose.
- C. The Board may impose additional restrictions or stipulations to accompany the re-issuance of the RESPONDENT'S authority to prescribe controlled substances, as deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board.
- D. Respondent shall not re-register or otherwise obtain a DEA Controlled Substances Registration Certificate(s) and/or DPS Controlled Substances Registration Certificate(s) and/or any other government issued certificates or authorizations to prescribe controlled substances until Respondent obtains authorization in writing from the Board to prescribe controlled substances.

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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 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 9 day of April, 2018.

Verna Mae Jones  
VERNA MAE JONES, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9 day of April, 2018.

SEAL

Danielle J Edwards

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

Don E Lewis  
Don E. Lewis, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 9 day of April, 2018.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018, by VERNA MAE JONES, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP118169 with Prescription Authorization Number 8390, Registered Nurse License Number 554838, and Vocational Nurse License Number 26756, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.



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