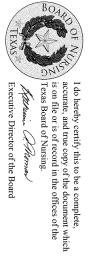
BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED Registered Nurse License Number 855594 \$ & Vocational Nurse License Number 233986 \$ issued to CHRISTINA SANTOS \$ ORDER



On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINA SANTOS, Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, 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)(1)&(10), 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 August 2, 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 suspended status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in suspended status.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Galen College of Nursing, San Antonio, Texas, on January 21, 2011, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Galen College of Nursing, San Antonio, Texas, on March 25, 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 15, 2011, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on May 29, 2014.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

05/14 - 05/18 Unknown

06/18 - Present

RN

Legend Oaks Healthcare and Rehabilitation San Antonio, Texas

- 6. On or about February 26, 2018, Respondent was issued a Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program by the Board which required her to participate in, and successfully complete, the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Respondent has not successfully completed the terms of the order. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program dated February 26, 2018, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about June 4, 2018, Respondent was noncompliant with the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on February 26, 2018. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to complete the enrollment process for the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Stipulation I(B) of the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program dated February 26, 2018, reads, in pertinent part:

"Within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement and complete the enrollment process..."

On or about June 4, 2018, Respondent dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Texas Board of Nursing.

- 8. Respondent's last known date of sobriety is unknown.
- 9. 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 chemical dependency.
- 10. Formal Charges were filed and Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas were temporarily suspended on July 30, 2018.
- 11. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 30, 2018.
- 12. 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.
- 13. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.

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- 14. 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.
- 15. 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(9)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, heretofore issued to CHRISTINA SANTOS, 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 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, previously issued to CHRISTINA SANTOS, to practice nursing in Texas are 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 <u>cleared to safely practice as a nurse</u> based on a fitness evaluation, as may be required by TPAPN; and
- C. Waives confidentiality and <u>provides a copy of the fully executed TPAPN</u>
 <u>participation agreement to the Board.</u>

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 participation agreement 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 <u>not</u> being offered by a preapproved 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. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of the suspension being stayed. 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. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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 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.

| including revocation of my license(| s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequ |
|--|--|
| my noncompliance. | |
| | Signed this LL day of AUSUST 20 18. |
| | Mantoon |
| | CHRISTINA SANTOS, Respondent |
| Sworn to and subscribed before me | this day of Nugust 30 8. |
| | Notary Public in and for the State of Texa 5 |
| JEANETTE DAVILA JEANETTE DAVILA LOS PUBLICAS DE LA COMPANION | |
| Notary ID 128912024 | Approved as to form and substance. |
| • | Alejandro Mora, Attorney for Respondent |
| | Signed this day of, 20 |

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 6th day of August, 2018, by CHRISTINA SANTOS, Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, and said Order is final.

Effective this 7th day of August, 2018.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

| In the Matter of | § | CONFIDENTIAL |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| Registered Nurse License Number 855594 | | AGREED ORDER |
| & Vocational Nurse License Number 233986 | § | FOR |
| issued to CHRISTINA SANTOS | 8 | PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM |

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINA SANTOS, Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, 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), 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 23, 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 current status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Galen College of Nursing, San Antonio, Texas, on January 21, 2011, and received an Associate Degree from Galen College of Nursing, San Antonio, Texas, on March 25, 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 15, 2011, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on May 29, 2014.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

| 4/2011 - 07/2012 | LVN | Stone Oak Care Center San Antonio, Texas |
|-----------------------|---------|---|
| 07/2012 - 01/2014 | I,VN | The Heights on Huebner San Antonio, Texas |
| 02/2014 - 02/2015 | Unknown | |
| 03/2015 - 11/2017 | RN | Health South Rehabilitation Institute San Antonio, Texas |
| 12/2017 - Present | RN | Senior Care Center of Wurzbach San Antonio, Texas |

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Health South Rehabilitation Institute, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
- 7. On or about November 17, 2017 through November 20, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Health South Rehabilitation Institute of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydrocodone and Oxycontin belonging to the facility and patients thereof in that Respondent admitted to the Chief Nursing Officer and Human Resources Director she misappropriated medications from the facility for her own personal use. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the medications.
- 8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent admits she took Hydrocodone and Oxycontin from the medication dispensing system for her personal use.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact resulted from or was significantly influenced by Respondent's substance use disorder.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number 233986, heretofore issued to CHRISTINA SANTOS.
- 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. PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

- A. Within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL apply to TPAPN;
- B. Within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee payable to TPAPN in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
- C. Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing;

- D. 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; and
- E. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

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.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. 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.

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 entry of this Order:

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 preapproved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.

IV. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS

While RESPONDENT remains in compliance with the terms of this Order, this Order shall remain confidential in accordance with the authority outlined in Section 301.466(d), Texas Occupations Code. However, should Respondent fail to successfully complete the terms of this Order or should Respondent commit a subsequent violation of the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules, this Order shall be treated as prior disciplinary action and will become public information.

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 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 14 day of FUO, 2018. |
|--|--|
| | CHRISTINA SANTOS, Respondent |
| Sworn to and subscribed before n | ne this 14th day of FW, 2018. We lly Macha |
| MOLLY MACHAS NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF TEXAS | Notary Public in and for the State of MXAV Approved as to form and substange. |
| My Comm. Exp. 06-08-2020 P 1D# 13069347-2 | Katle Croft - Walsil, Attorney for Respondent Signed this H day of Feb., 2018 |

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Confidential Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program that was signed on the 14th day of February, 2018, by CHRISTINA SANTOS, Registered Nurse License Number 855594 and Vocational Nurse License Number

233986, and said Order is final.

Effective this 26th day of February , 20 18

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board