## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of \$ REINSTATEMENT Vocational Nurse License Number 322051 \$ AGREED ORDER issued to CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER \$

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, of Vocational Nurse License Number 322051, held by CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on January 28, 2019.

## 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 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 Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 3. Petitioner received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Lamar State College-Orange, Orange, Texas, on August 1, 2014. Petitioner was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 16, 2014.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

2014

LVN

Silsbee Oaks Silsbee, Texas Petitioner's nursing employment history continued:

2016	LVN	Summer Place Beaumont, Texas
2016	LVN	Silsbee Oaks Silsbee, Texas

- 5. On or about July 24, 2013, Petitioner was issued an Agreed Eligibility Order through an Order of the Board. A copy of the July 24, 2013, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 6. On or about January 19, 2017, Petitioner's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas was Revoked through an Order of the Board. A copy of the January 19, 2017, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 7. On or about October 2, 2018, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 8. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
  - A. Letter of recommendation dated October 30, 2018, from Brandy Droddy stating Petitioner had an exceptional bedside manner and was one of the best nurses she had the pleasure of working with.
  - B. Letter of recommendation from Ginger Swearingen, LVN, stating she and Petitioner worked together at Silsbee Oak. Petitioner demonstrated critical skills, knowledge and abilities that would make her a valuable asset to the nursing profession. Petitioner is also hardworking, dependable, and knowledgeable.
  - C. Letter of recommendation dated October 29, 2018, from Connie Smith, stating she has known Petitioner for a number of years. Petitioner exemplifies what a caring nurse should be, she is kind, compassionate and has empathy.
  - D. Letter of recommendation from T. Smith stating Petitioner has been attending weekly meetings for the past two years and has spent her sobriety birthdays with the community.
  - E. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.

- 9. On or about December 18, 2018, Petitioner presented to Paul Andres, Ph.D, Clinical and Forensic Psychologist, Tyler, Texas, for psychological testing and an examination. As a result, Dr. Andrews was able to offer the following Conclusion and Recommendation: "My recommendation is that Ms. Shaeffer is in no need for substance abuse or chemical dependency treatment. It is my opinion that she is capable of performing responsibly and without impairment as a licensee. It is my recommendation that she be allowed to discuss with the Board and with TPAPN what options and requirements there would be for her license to be reinstated."
- 10. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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. This reinstatement is made pursuant to Sections 301.453(c) and 301.467, Texas Occupations Code and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26.
- 3. The Board may relicense an individual upon evaluation of the factors in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, if 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 AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the State of Texas be **GRANTED** and Vocational Nurse License Number 322051 is/are hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of 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.

# 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 Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Reinstatement Agreed 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 relicensure, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- A. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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 and video programs will not be approved.
- B. <u>The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"</u> 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. Indirect Supervision: PETITIONER 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. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as PETITIONER, 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 of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the PETITIONER is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- 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. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

A. While under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that the prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and PETITIONER SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the

Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances. The Board will provide instructions on how to enroll in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program following the entry of this Order and screening will begin when PETITIONER obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.
  - For the first three (3) month [1st quarter] period PETITIONER works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, random screens shall be performed at least once per week.
  - For the next three (3) month [2<sup>nd</sup> quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
  - For the next six (6) month period [3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters], random screens shall be performed at least once per month.
  - For the remainder of the probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Any test result for a period of time in which the PETITIONER is not working as a nurse under the terms of this Order will not count towards satisfaction of this requirement. All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. PETITIONER SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation/probation period.

# <u>Specimens shall be screened</u> for any or all of the following substances and/or their metabolites:

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	Amphetamine	Methamphetamine	MDMA
	MDA	Alprazolam	Diazepam
	Alpha-o-alprazolam	Alpha-Hydroxytriazolam	Clonazepam
	Desmethyldiazepam	Lorazepam	Midazolam
	Oxazepam	Temazepam	Amobarbital
	Butabarbital	Butalbital	Pentobarbital
	Phenobarbital	Secobarbital	Codeine
	Hydrocodone	Hydromorphone	Methadone
	Morphine	Opiates	Oxycodone
	Oxymorphone	Propoxyphene	Cannabinoids
	Cocaine	Phencyclidine	Ethanol
	Heroin	Fentanyl	Tramadol
	Meperidine	Carisoprodol	Butorphanol
	Nalbuphine	Ketamine	Propofol
	•		

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, <u>PETITIONER</u> SHALL, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not <u>PETITIONER</u> has been selected to produce a specimen for screening that day and SHALL, if selected, produce a specimen for screening that same day at an approved testing location and/or comply with any additional instructions from the vendor or Board staff. Further, <u>a Board representative may appear</u> at the PETITIONER'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require PETITIONER to produce a specimen for screening.

Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens. Any positive result for which PETITIONER does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject PETITIONER to 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. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

# VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Reinstatement Agreed 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 this Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of my petition and disclosures. I further understand that subsequently discovered discrepancies in my petition and/or disclosures will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of my license(s).

I have reviewed this Order. I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. 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, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, and/or REVOCATION of my license(s) and/or nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 19 day of March, 2019.

Christina Michell Shaffer

CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAFFER Petitioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of March 20 19.

JOANN THERIOT
Notary ID #2964386
My Commission Expires
Apr 30, 2021

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 \_19th\_ day of \_March\_, 20\_19\_, by CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, Vocational Nurse License Number 322051, and said Reinstatement Agreed Order is final.

Effective this \_25th\_ day of \_April\_, 20\_19\_.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

# **DOCKET NUMBER 507-16-5709**

IN THE MATTER OF § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE PERMANENT CERTIFICATE § OF ISSUED TO § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

# OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

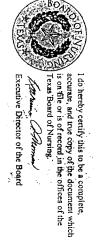
TO: CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER P.O. BOX 705 BUNA, TEXAS 77612

STEVEN D. ARNOLD ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE 300 WEST 15TH STREET AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on January 19-20, 2017, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order No.1, Order Dismissing Case, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staffs recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On October 24, 2016, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on her behalf. During the hearing on October 24, 2016, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to her last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 1, Order Dismissing Case, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of Order No.1, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board has determined that



the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001:056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin.Code §213.23(l), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Number 322051, previously issued to CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this \_\_\_\_\_day of January, 2017.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of	§	BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Vocational Nurse	§	
License Number 322051	§	
Issued to CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFE	R, §	
Respondent	§	BOARD OF NURSING

## FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 322051, which is in current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

## CHARGE I.

On or about June 12, 2015, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Eligibility Order issued to her on July 24, 2013, requiring her to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Non-compliance is the result of her failure to submit quarterly employer reports, monthly meeting and self-reports. Furthermore, Respondent was non-compliant in checking into Recovery Trek for drug screening. Stipulation number three (3) of the Order dated July 24, 2013, states in part:

"RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term ..."

As a result of her non-compliance, her case with TPAPN was closed and referred to the Board on August 7, 2015.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(11)(B).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, <u>www.bon.texas.gov</u>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted policies related to Substance Use Disorders and Other Alcohol and Drug Related Conduct which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order dated July 24, 2013.

Filed this 25/hday of \_\_\_

TEXAS-BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24036103

Natalie E. Adelaja, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24064715

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24079751

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 50511847

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 00785533

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460 Austin, Texas 78701 P: (512) 305-8657 F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



In the Matter of CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER,

8

AGREED

PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure

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ELIGIBILITY ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, hereinafter referred to as PETTTIONER, 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)(2),(9)&(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on May 23, 2013.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On or about December 11, 2012, PETITIONER submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.253, 301.257 and 301.258, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.30.
- 2. Petitioner waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Petitioner was not enrolled in a Vocational Nursing Program at the time of this petition.

I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true cupy of the decument is on his on his on his of record in the offices of Texas Roard of Yurang

- 4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to the question which reads as follows: "For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
  - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - B. been convicted of a felony?
  - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - D. received deferred adjudication?
  - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
  - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
  - I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
  - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)"

5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:

On or about November 19, 2007, Petitioner was arrested by the Lumberton Police Department, Lumberton, Texas, for THEFT OF PROPERTY >=\$500 <\$1500 BY CHECK, a Class A misdemeanor offense and POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE ANALOGUE PG 1 < 1G, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

On or about November 19, 2007, Petitioner was arrested by the Lumberton Police Department, Lumberton, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. 58743 for THEFT, a Class A misdemeanor offense, committed on November 19, 2007. On or about March 10, 2009, Cause No. 58743 was dismissed in the County Court at Law of Hardin County, Texas, for the reason: Defendant successfully completed Pretrial Diversion.

On or about July 6, 2009, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, a Class A misdemeanor offense, committed on November 20, 2007, in the 88th Judicial District Court of Hardin County, Texas, under Cause No. 19785. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of nine (9) months. On or about April 8, 2010, Petitioner was discharged from probation.

- 6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
- 7. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "no" 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?"

- 8. A letter dated October 4, 2010, was submitted by D. Scott Hughes, CI, Burke Center, Mental Healthcare and Substance Abuse Treatment Services, Jasper, Texas, stating that Petitioner successfully completed a six (6) month outpatient treatment program.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Petition for Declaratory Order, her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27.
- 11. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
- 12. 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.
- 13. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past criminal conduct in light of the considerations and criteria provided in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§213.28 & 213.33, and, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 14. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's substance abuse/chemical dependency, and subsequent rehabilitation as provided in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 and in accordance with 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33.
- 15. Petitioner's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.
- 16. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
- 17. 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.
- 18. 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.
- On or about Decebmer 11, 2012, PETITIONER submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.253, 301.257 and 301.258, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.30.
- 3. Petitioner's history reflects conduct which may constitute grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452(b)(2),(9)&(10), 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 been previously convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any crime whether or not a sentence was imposed upon consideration of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.28 and, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code,
- 6. The Board may license an individual who has a history of substance abuse and/or chemical dependency 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.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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.
- 9. 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).

#### **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED that, upon meeting the requirements for graduation of an appropriate program in nursing education and payment of any required fees, PETITIONER is ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN<sup>®</sup> Examination) and/or the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN<sup>®</sup> Examination), as applicable.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse (GVN) and/or as a Graduate Nurse (GN), as applicable, in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that, upon payment of any required fees and upon attaining a passing grade on the appropriate National Council Licensure Examination, PETITIONER shall be issued the applicable license 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 following stipulations:

PETITIONER SHALL obtain and read the Texas Nursing Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure, and Practice.

PETITIONER SHALL 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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER'S license(s) is/are encumbered by this Order, PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant Christina Shaeffer/063

Page 5 of 8

S40ExP/May 23, 2013

to a nurse licensure compact privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the party state where PETITIONER wishes to work.

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

- (1) PETITIONER SHALL, within forty-five (45) days of licensure, apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) payable to TPAPN.
- (2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Texas Board of Nursing.
- (3) PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.
- (4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or revocation of PETITIONER'S license(s) and nurse compact licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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# 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 and/or 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 and/or petition, 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 (1) through Four (4) 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 EMERGENCY 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, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.

Signed this 15 day of Jaly, 2013. Christing michell Shaeffer CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, PETITIONER

Sworm to and subscribed before me this 5th day of July, 2013.

SEATYphal Morie Compton
Notary Public
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

My Comm. Exp. 03/22/2014

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Eligibility Order that was signed on the 15th day of July, 2013, by CHRISTINA MICHELL SHAEFFER, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of July , 2013

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board