



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.
William D. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

In the Matter of
Permanent Vocational Nurse
License Number 345977
Issued to AMBER LYN COOK,
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS
§
§
§
§ BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

TO: AMBER COOK
1319 BAYOU DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78245

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing was held on July 8, 2019 at 333 Guadalupe, Room 3-460, Austin, Texas, in which the Temporary Suspension of Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 345977, issued to AMBER LYN COOK was considered pursuant to Section 301.4551, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE. Staff of the Texas Board of Nursing appeared and presented evidence and information concerning the conduct of AMBER LYN COOK and whether her continued practice as a nurse would constitute a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

After review and due consideration of the evidence and information presented, the Board finds that the following charges are substantiated:

CHARGE I.

On or about May 3, 2019, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with DaVita South San Antonio Dialysis Center, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she produced a specimen for a random urine drug screen which resulted positive for ethyl glucuronide (ETG) and ethyl sulfate (ETS), metabolites of alcohol. Additionally, Respondent admitted to the medical review officer (MRO) that she drank alcohol. Further, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to her on March 6, 2018. Section III, Part D of the Agreed Order dated March 6, 2018 states:

"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..."

On or about May 20, 2019, Respondent was dismissed from the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN).

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

The Texas Board of Nursing further finds that, given the nature of the charges concerning her fitness to practice, the continued practice of nursing by AMBER LYN COOK constitutes a continuing and imminent threat to public welfare and that the temporary suspension of Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 345977, is justified pursuant to Section 301.4551, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE.

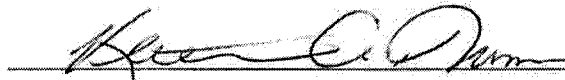
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 345977, issued to AMBER LYN COOK, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are, hereby SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY in accordance with Section 301.4551, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a probable cause hearing be conducted in accordance with Section 301.455(c) not later than seventeen (17) days following the date of the entry of this order, and a final hearing on the matter be conducted in accordance with 301.455(d) not later than the 61st day following the date of the entry of this order.

Entered this 8th day of July, 2019.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**In the Matter of
Permanent Vocational Nurse
License Number 345977
Issued to AMBER LYN COOK,
Respondent**

§
§ **BEFORE THE TEXAS**
§
§
§ **BOARD OF NURSING**
§

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, AMBER LYN COOK, is a Vocational Nurse holding license number 345977 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 May 3, 2019, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with DaVita South San Antonio Dialysis Center, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she produced a specimen for a random urine drug screen which resulted positive for ethyl glucuronide (ETG) and ethyl sulfate (ETS), metabolites of alcohol. Additionally, Respondent admitted to the medical review officer (MRO) that she drank alcohol. Further, Respondent became non-compliant with the Agreed Order issued to her on March 6, 2018. Section III, Part D of the Agreed Order dated March 6, 2018 states:

"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..."

On or about May 20, 2019, Respondent was dismissed from the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN).

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

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) and/or privilege(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.

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, www.bon.texas.gov.

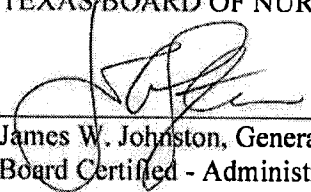
NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted policies related to Substance Use Disorders and Other Alcohol and Drug Related Conduct, which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

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, www.bon.texas.gov.

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(s) of the Board dated March 6, 2018.

Filed this 8th day of July, 2019.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



James W. Johnston, General Counsel
Board Certified - Administrative Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Deputy General Counsel
Board Certified - Administrative Law
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Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated March 6, 2018.
D(2019.06.24)

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of	§	CONFIDENTIAL ELIGIBILITY
AMBER LYN COOK,	§	AGREED ORDER FOR
PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure	§	PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, and supporting documents filed by AMBER LYN COOK, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, 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)(9)&(10) 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 December 7, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about August 2, 2017, Petitioner submitted the Petition requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure.
2. Petitioner was not enrolled in a vocational nursing program at the time of this petition.
3. Petitioner completed the Petition 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.)"*

4. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
 - A. On or about May 3, 2006, Petitioner entered a plea of Nolo Contendere to ATTEMPTED BURGLARY / ENTERING MOTOR VEHICLE, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on February 22, 2006, in the District Court of Mobile County, Alabama, under Cause No. DC061432. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Mobile County Jail for a period of six (6) months; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of two (2) years.
 - B. On or about February 10, 2012, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESS CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PG 1 < 1G, a State Jail felony offense committed on January 6, 2012, in the 144th District Court/Felony Drug Court of Bexar County, Texas, under Cause No. 2012CR1198W. 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 two (2) years. On or about February 5, 2014, Petitioner's probation was amended and extended one (1) year. On or about January 8, 2015, Petitioner completed the terms and conditions of probation and was discharged.
5. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
6. 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?"*
7. Petitioner stated that she attended drug court as part of her probation which included counseling, drug tests, classes on substance abuse, and attendance with AA, NA, and CA meetings.
8. 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.
9. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Petition, her past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27.

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Petitioner's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.
14. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
15. 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.
16. 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 August 2, 2017, Petitioner submitted the Petition 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)(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 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.
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).

TERMS OF ORDER

I. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that the application/petition of PETITIONER is hereby **GRANTED**, and 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® Examination) and/or the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN® Examination), as applicable.

- A. 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.

- B. Upon payment of any required fees and upon attaining a passing grade on the applicable National Council Licensure Examination, PETITIONER shall be issued the applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND APPLICABILITY

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.

- A. Until successfully completed, any and all licenses issued to Petitioner shall be subject to the terms of this Order.
- 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 will be designated "single state" and PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

III. PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

IT IS THEREFORE 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):

- A. Within forty-five (45) days of licensure, PETITIONER SHALL apply to TPAPN;
- B. Within ninety (90) days of licensure, PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing;

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

IV. 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 licensure:

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.*

V. CONFIDENTIALITY REQUIREMENTS

While PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER fail to successfully complete the terms of this Order or should PETITIONER 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.

VI. 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.

VII. 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.

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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/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 Seven (VII) 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.

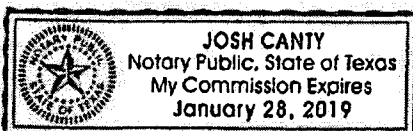
Signed this 11 day of February, 2018.

Amber Lyn Cook

AMBER LYN COOK, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11 day of FEBRUARY, 2018.

SEAL



Josh Canty
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept and enter the Confidential Eligibility Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program that was signed on the 11th day of February, 2018, by AMBER LYN COOK, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure; and said Order is final.

Effective this 6th day of March, 2018.



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