



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.  
*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of  
Vocational Nurse License Number 314030  
issued to JESSICA RYNE HUGHES

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AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JESSICA RYNE HUGHES, Vocational Nurse License Number 314030, 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) (2),(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on May 20, 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 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 Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Dallas Nursing Institute - Vocational Nrsg, Dallas, Texas, on May 8, 2013. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 28, 2013.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history is unknown.
6. On or about October 20, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to POSS CS PG 1>=4G<200G, a 2nd Degree Felony offense committed on May 21, 2014, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Anderson County, Texas, under Cause No. 31813. As a result of the plea, the

proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of Guilt and Respondent was placed on Probation for a period of ten (10) years and ordered to pay a fine, court costs and restitution in the amount of one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00).

7. On or about June 5, 2016, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document Licensed Vocational Nurse to the Texas Board of Nursing, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question: Have you, within the past 24 months or since your last renewal, for any criminal offense, including those pending appeal:
- A. been arrested or any pending criminal charges?
  - B. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - C. been convicted of a felony? pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - D. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - E. received deferred adjudication?
  - F. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - G. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
  - H. been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - 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?"

Respondent failed to disclose that on or about May 21, 2014, Respondent was arrested by the Palestine Police Department for POSS CS PG 3<28G, a Class A misdemeanor offense and that the criminal charge was still pending at the time that Respondent submitted his Renewal to the Board.

Respondent also failed to disclose, on or about October 20, 2014, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to POSS CS PG 1>=4G<200G, a 2nd Degree Felony offense committed on May 21, 2014, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Anderson County, Texas, under Cause No. 31813. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Respondent were deferred without entering an adjudication of Guilt and Respondent was placed on Probation for a period of ten (10) years.

8. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) and Seven (7), Respondent states she was giving a friend a ride and pulled next to another vehicle and heard the driver of the other vehicle tell her friend "passenger in her vehicle" to get this and her friend did. Respondent did not question what "this" was and which she should have. Respondent was found with crack cocaine and one-hundred (100) Xanax tablets in her car, that she did not know were present, when she was pulled over by the police for a routine traffic offense. Respondent failed to disclose the incidents because she was scared to lose her license and didn't have the funds to fight the charges in criminal court or with the Board of Nursing. Additionally, Respondent provided several letters of recommendation from her current employer.

9. On or about November 19, 2018, Respondent underwent a Chemical Dependency Evaluation, with Dr. Jim Womack. Dr. Womack's summary states Respondent's suspected impairment does not prevent her from practicing nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients. Respondent's history reflects one who has not used illicit substance or alcohol to assuage negative moods. Rather, she seems to have been very tolerant of negative moods resulting from recurring negative relationships across her life time. Supporting her interview report of a lack of substance abuse history, is the result of 2 independent instruments with divergent response style indicators that did not identify any concerns about the accuracy of her report to the test. Respondent SASSI-IV results were valid and reflect no concerns about abuse.
10. Formal Charges were filed on October 8, 2018.

#### 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 (6)(I).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b) (2),(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 314030, heretofore issued to JESSICA RYNE HUGHES.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

#### TERMS OF ORDER

##### **I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Vocational Nurse License Number 314030, previously issued to JESSICA RYNE HUGHES, to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **STAYED** and **RESPONDENT** is hereby placed on

**PROBATION** for a minimum of three (3) years **AND** until RESPONDENT fulfills the additional requirements of 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.

## **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 Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed Order.

## **III. UNDERSTANDING BOARD ORDERS**

Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT must successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders", which can be accessed on the Board's website from the "Discipline & Complaints" drop-down menu or directly at: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp>. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

## **IV. 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 effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- A. 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 and video programs will not be approved.
- B. The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension.

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at [www.bon.texas.gov/compliance](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

V. **MONITORING FEE**

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monitoring fee in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Order.

Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

VI. **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT 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 twelve (12) quarterly periods [three (3) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until twelve (12) 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:** RESPONDENT 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, RESPONDENT 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:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. Should Respondent's current employment with TruCare Living Center, Palestine, Texas, cease, then RESPONDENT SHALL work **No Night or Rotating Shifts, Overtime, or On-Call:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which RESPONDENT is regularly assigned.
- D. **No Critical Care:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.
- E. **No Administration of Controlled Medications:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, Propofol, or other synthetic opiates.

- F. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- G. **Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the RESPONDENT is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- H. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for twelve (12) quarters [three (3) years] of employment as a nurse.

## VII. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT 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, RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT 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, RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.

- For the first three (3) month [1<sup>st</sup> quarter] period RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation/probation period.

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

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  
Nalbuphine

Carisoprodol  
Ketamine

Butorphanol  
Propofol

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, **RESPONDENT SHALL, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not RESPONDENT 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, **a Board representative may appear** at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

**Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens.** Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to 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. 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.

#### VIII. PROBATION REPORTS

RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE his/her probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board. The reports shall indicate the RESPONDENT'S compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until RESPONDENT is released from probation.

#### IX. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the RESPONDENT'S conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Agreed 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.

**X. FURTHER COMPLAINTS**

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against 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.

**XI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)**

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed 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 Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing and a copy of this Order will be mailed to me once the Order becomes effective. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including possible revocation of my license(s) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 20 19.

J. Hughes  
JESSICA BYNE HUGHES, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_.

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and substance.

Taralynn R. Mackay  
Taralynn Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 20 19.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2019, by JESSICA RYNE HUGHES, Vocational Nurse License Number 314030, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019



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