

DOCKET NUMBER 507-19-6272

**IN THE MATTER OF
 PERMANENT CERTIFICATE
 NUMBER 703975,
 ISSUED TO
 JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH**

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**BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE
 OF
 ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

**TO: JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH
 3741 MISTY MEADOW DR.
 FORT WORTH, TX 76133**

**PRATIBHA J. SHENOY
 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
 300 WEST 15TH STREET
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on January 23-24, 2020, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order No. 1, *Conditional Order of Default Dismissal and Remand*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's registered nursing license by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On October 14, 2019, 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 14, 2019, 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, *Conditional Order of Default Dismissal and Remand*, 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 professional 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 registered nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which have been deemed admitted, and 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 703975, previously issued to JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH, 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 23rd day of January, 2020.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



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

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of
Permanent Registered Nurse
License Number 703975

Issued to JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH,
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS
§
§
§ BOARD OF NURSING
§

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 703975 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 1.

On or about February 11, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Klarus Home Care, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent misappropriated one hundred and ten (110) tablets of Hydrocodone, one hundred (100) tablets of Dilaudid, and thirty-four (34) tablets of Morphine belonging to Patient FW3452-MC-2, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients thereof of the cost of the medications.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(G),(8),(10)(E)&(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) 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.

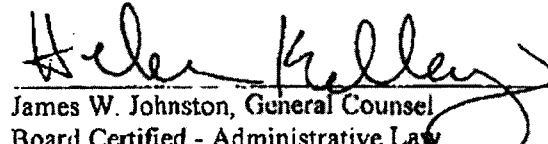
NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted policies related to Substance Use Disorders and Other Alcohol and Drug Related Conduct, which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

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 May 16, 2014.

Filed this 24th day of October, 2018

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
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Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated May 16, 2014

D(2018.10.15)



I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the decision of the Texas Board of Nursing.
Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED ORDER
Registered Nurse License Number 703975 §
issued to JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH § FOR DEFERRED DISCIPLINE

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH, Registered Nurse License Number 703975, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on March 31, 2014.

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 informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on March 15, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 18, 2004.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/04-08/12	RN	Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Texas
09/12-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately eight (8) years and three (3) months.
7. On or about June 23, 2012, and July 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) vials of Hydromorphone from the medication dispensing system for Patient Medical Record Number 686961, but failed to document, or completely and accurately document the administration of the Hydromorphone, including signs, symptoms, and responses to the medication in the patients medication administration records and/or nurses notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient, in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose, and Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
8. On or about June 23, 2012, through July 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent withdrew one (1) vial of Lorazepam 2mg, and five (5) vials of Hydromorphone 4mg from the medication dispensing system for Patient Medical Record Numbers 686961, 706710, and 691020, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedures for wastage of any of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
9. On or about June 23, 2012, through July 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation of Lorazepam and Hydromorphone belonging to the facility or patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patients of the cost of the medications.
10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states she did appropriately dispense and waste narcotics during the time frame. Additionally, Respondent states she was drug tested and found to be negative for drugs, it appears that Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital not only jumped to conclusions about the circumstances, but did not properly follow accepted standards for handling situations such as these.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.

3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A), (1)(B) & (1)(D) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), (4), (6)(G), (10)(B), (10)(C) & (11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10) & (13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 703975, heretofore issued to JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REMEDIAL EDUCATION, DEFERRED, and RESPONDENT 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, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license(s) is/are encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant 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 Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL not commit any violation of 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. for a period of five (5) years from the date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It 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. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:* <http://www.bnn.texas.gov/compliance>

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall

include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation.

RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:* <http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance>.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete 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 program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:* <http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon successful completion of Stipulations Numbers One (1) through Three (3) of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, and RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon the successful completion of the required period of deferral, the complaint or complaints which formed the basis for this action will be

dismissed and this Order will be made confidential to the same extent as a complaint filed under Section 301.466, Texas Occupations Code.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that until such time that this Order is made confidential, this Order is subject to disclosure in accordance with applicable law.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that should an additional allegation, complaint, accusation, or petition be reported or filed against Respondent prior to the time this Order is made confidential, the deferral period shall be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been finally acted upon by the Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that should RESPONDENT commit a subsequent violation of the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules, this Order shall be treated as prior disciplinary action.

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RESPONDENTS CERTIFICATION

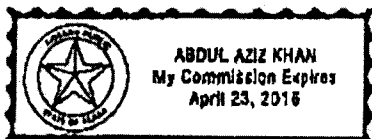
I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, the Board may stay the dismissal of the complaint filed against me, and that I will be subject to investigation and possible disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 13 day of May, 2014.

Jennifer Key Ruth Smith
JENNIFER KEY RUTH SMITH, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of May, 2014.

SEAL



Al Khan
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Jeffrey C. Grass, Esq.
Jeffrey C. Grass, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 15th day of May, 2014

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order for Deferred Discipline that was signed on the 13th day of May, 20 14, by JENNIFER KEY/RUTH SMITH, Registered Nurse License Number 703975, and said Order is final.

Effective this 16th day of May, 20 14.



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