In the Matter of **Permanent Registered Nurse** License Number 787733 Issued to COURTNE HEATHER LOPEZ, Respondent

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BEFORE THE TEXAS

BOARD OF NURSING

ELIGIBILITY AND

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTE

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Courtne Lopez 999 W Villa Maria #400 Bryan, TX 77801

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on May 12, 2020, the Texas Board of Nursing Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter "Committee") heard the above-styled case, based on the failure of the Respondent to appear as required by 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with Texas Government Code § 2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301 of the Texas Occupations Code, for retention of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

The Committee finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with section 301.458, Texas Occupations Code.

The Committee finds that after proper and timely Notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in this matter, Respondent has failed to appear in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that the Board is authorized to enter a default order pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2001.056.

The Committee, after review and due consideration, adopts the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as stated in the Formal Charges which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference for all purposes and the 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 [22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16(j)]. 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 787733, previously issued to COURTNE HEATHER LOPEZ to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are hereby, REVOKED.

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

Entered this 12th day of May, 2020

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Letterine Co. Themas

BY:

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges filed February 21, 2020

d17r(2020.03.19)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the $\underline{\mathcal{V}}$ day of $\underline{\mathcal{M}}$, $20\underline{\mathcal{V}}$, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served and addressed to the following person(s), as follows:

<u>Via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested,</u> <u>Copy Via USPS First Class Mail</u>

Courtne Lopez 999 W Villa Maria #400 Bryan, TX 77801

Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Courtne Lopez 999 W Villa Maria #400 Bryan, TX 77801

BY:

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Letterine C. Theman

In the Matter of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 787733 Issued to COURTNE HEATHER LOPEZ, Respondent

BEFORE THE TEXAS
BOARD OF NURSING

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, COURTNE HEATHER LOPEZ, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 787733 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 August 8, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with College Station Medical Center, College Station, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she exhibited signs of impaired behavior while on duty, including: slurred speech, unsteady gait, drowsy with sleepy eyes, and emitted an odor of alcohol. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10),(12)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(B)&(1)(T) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(E),(4)&(5).

CHARGE II.

On or about August 8, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with College Station Medical Center, College Station, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of alcohol in that she produced a specimen for a reasonable suspicion blood alcohol test which resulted positive for alcohol. The use of alcohol by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(1)(B)&(1)(T) and 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.

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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.

Filed this 21 day of February, 2020

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

Texas Board of Legal Specialization State Bar No. 24036103

Helen Kelley, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24086520

Skyler Landon Shafer, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24081149

JoAnna Starr, Assistant General Counsel

State Bar No. 24098463

Jacqueline A. Strashun, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 19358600

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460 Austin, Texas 78701

Austin, Texas 78701 P: (512) 305-8657

F: (512) 305-8101 or (512) 305-7401