# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse License Number 177058 issued to VANESSA REYES AGREED ORDER

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

xecutive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of VANESSA REYES, Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

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Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(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 March 9, 2020.

#### 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 The Health Institute of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, on January 20, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 13, 2000.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

09/2000 - 01/2004

Unknown

01/2004 - 07/2005

LVN

Stone Bridge Health Center

Austin, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

07/2005 – 06/2008	Unknown	
06/2008 — 04/2009	LVN	Credentia Austin, Texas
04/2009 — 05/2009	LVN	Trisun Round Rock, Texas
05/2009 – 07/2019	Unknown	
07/2019 – Present	LVN	Poet's Walk San Antonio, Texas

- 6. On or about July 22, 2010, Respondent was issued the sanction of Warning with Stipulations through an Order of the Board. A copy of the July 22, 2010, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
- 7. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Poet's Walk, and had been in that position for approximately eight (8) months.
- 8. On or about September 28, 2019, through March 3, 2020, while employed with Poet's Walk, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on July 22, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Eight (8) of the order which reads, in pertinent part:
  - (8) PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol...

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing...

On or about September 28, 2019 through March 3, 2020, Respondent missed twenty-one (21) check-ins, which is a violation the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing.

# **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(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, heretofore issued to VANESSA REYES.
- 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 that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH FINE** in accordance with the terms 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. COMPLIANCE WITH PRIOR ORDER

The Order of the Board issued to RESPONDENT on July 22, 2010 is still in effect in its entirety and RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for completing the terms of that Order.

### IV. 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp">http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp</a>. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

#### V. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) 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. 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) and/or privilege(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.

## **RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. 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.

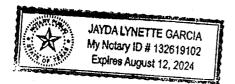
Signed this day of Jeptimber 20 20 3

VANESSA REYES, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \\ day of \setminstand property 20 \( \frac{20}{20} \).

**SEAL** 

Notary Public in and for the State of <u>Jexas</u>



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>16th</u> day of <u>September</u>, 20 <u>20</u>, by VANESSA REYES, Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 22nd day of October , 20 20 .

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse

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AGREED

License Number 177058 issued to VANESSA REYES

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**ORDER** 

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bc considered the matter of VANESSA REYES, Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, hereinareferred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on May 13, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

### 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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from The Health Institute of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, on January 20, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 13, 2000.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

09/2000 - 01/2004 Employment history unknown.

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Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

01/2004 - 07/2005

LVN

Stone Bridge Health Center

Austin, Texas

07/2008 - 06/2008

Employment history unknown.

06/2008 - 04/2009

LVN

Credentia

Austin, Texas

04/2009 - 05/2009

LVN

Trisun

Round Rock, Texas

05/2009 - Present

Employment history unknown.

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Vocational Nurse with Trisun, Round Rock, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) month.
- 7. On or about May 16, 2009, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Trisun, Round Rock, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Benzodiazepines, in that she produced a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Benzodiazepines. Possession of Benzodiazepines, without a valid prescription, is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Benzodiazepines by a Vocational Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
- 8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states: "I was drug tested at work and the medication Ativan was positive in my urine. I was let go from my employer that day because I did not have the prescription bottle with me to prove that a physician prescribed the mediation. I went to the Right Steps and was evaluated. They found no evidence to diagnosed me as being dependent on this medication. I take it at night as needed."
- 9. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of a controlled substance.

### 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 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)(B)&(T), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(E),(4),(5),(10)(A) &(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, heretofore issued to VANESSA REYES, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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 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 is 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 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.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

(2) 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. Information regarding this workshop may be found at the following web address: <a href="http://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/critical/ctabout.asp">http://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/critical/ctabout.asp</a>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by

the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

- (5) For the duration of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or 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 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.
- (6) 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 Registered Nurse or Licensed Vocational Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.
- (7) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of 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 prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis is the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines Meperidine
Barbiturates Methadone
Benzodiazepines Methaqualone

Cannabinoids Opiates

Cocaine Phencyclidine Ethanol Propoxyphene

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT's place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

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 period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall 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 Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations 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 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 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 revocation of my license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this <u>as</u> day of <u>Nout</u>, 20 <u>C</u>.

Vanessa Reyes, Womana Royer) VANESSA REYES, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of May

SEAL

ANTHONY LOSCIUTO Notary Public, State of Texas by Comm. Expires 06-18-2012 Notary Public in and for the State of

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28th day of May, 2010, by VANESSA REYES, Vocational Nurse License Number 177058, and said Order is final.

Effective this 22<sup>ND</sup> day of July, 2010.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

