

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of	§	REINSTATEMENT
Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED ORDER
Nurse License Number AP120245 &	§	
Registered Nurse License Number 534126	§	
issued to RICARDO MENDEZ	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, of Registered Nurse License Number 534126, held by RICARDO MENDEZ, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on September 4, 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 Petitioner and Petitioner was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Petitioner waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
3. Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Texas Southmost College, Brownsville, Texas, on June 1, 1986, received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, in May 1989, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, on May 15, 2010. Petitioner was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 22, 1986 and was licensed to practice as an advanced practice registered nursing in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner with prescriptive authorization in the State of Texas on May 3, 2011.
4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

1986 - 1994	Charge Nurse/Circulator Operating Room	Valley Baptist Medical Center Harlingen, Texas
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Petitioner's nursing employment history continued:

01/94 - 08/94	Director of Operating Room	McAllen Medical Center McAllen, Texas
1994 - 1997	Assistant Director of Operating Room	McAllen Heart Hospital McAllen, Texas
1997 - 12/10	Staff Nurse/Emergency Department	Starr County Memorial Hospital Rio Grande City, Texas
1998 - 2007	Director of Operating Room	Cornerstone Regional Hospital Edinburg, Texas
01/09 - 08/09	Recovery Staff Nurse Cath Lab	Doctor's Hospital @ Renaissance Edinburg, Texas
12/10 - 05/11	Director of Surgical Services	Edinburg Regional Medical Center Edinburg, Texas
11/11 - 05/12	Family Nurse Practitioner	All Family Clinic of South Texas McAllen, Texas
06/11 - 10/13	Family Nurse Practitioner	Alton Family Clinic Alton, Texas
10/13 - Unknown	Family Nurse Practitioner	Palm Village Family Clinic, LLC Penitas, Texas

5. On or about December 1, 2016, the Board accepted the Voluntary Surrender of Petitioner's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas through an Order of the Board. A copy of the December 1, 2016, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
6. On or about January 3, 2017, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT HEALTH CARE FRAUD, a Felony offense, committed on or about August 1, 2014, through on or about March 16, 2015, in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, under Cause No. M-17-762-01. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to incarceration in the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for a period of fifteen (15) months followed by a three (3) year term of Supervised Release. On August 19, 2019, Petitioner's supervision was terminated.
7. On or about October 28, 2019, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

8. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
 - A. Letter of recommendation dated May 23, 2019, from Richard Coleman, RN, FNP-C, ERNP, PMHNP, FNP-BC, former coworker.
 - B. Letter of recommendation dated May 28, 2019, from Soledad Coleman, RN, MSN(FNP).
 - C. Letter of recommendation from Maricela Hernandez, RN, FNP-BC.
 - D. Letter of recommendation from Frank Ambriz, MPAS, Chair Department UTRGV PA, Clinical Associate Professor.
 - E. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.
9. On or about May 4, 2020, Petitioner completed a forensic psychological evaluation, with polygraph, performed by John K. Reid, Ph.D., P.C. According to Dr. Reid, the overall psychological testing and interviews indicate it is unlikely Petitioner would engage in criminal behavior again, as when he was engaging in fraudulent billing and misrepresentation. However, Petitioner reported suffering a stroke approximately two years ago and exhibited signs of possible neurocognitive deficits during testing. Considering his relatively recent stroke, Dr. Reid determined it may be appropriate for him to be evaluated further by a neurologist and/or neuropsychologist to better determine whether he is fit to practice.
10. On or about July 31, 2020, Petitioner completed a neuropsychological evaluation performed by Sean G. Connolly, Ph.D. According to Dr. Connolly, the results raise questions about Petitioner's ability to function in nursing, especially as an independent practitioner, and provide skilled and safe services to patients. Petitioner may be able to function in a nursing position that would be considered routine and structured, and involve repetitive tasks, but he would require close supervision for at least a year or two. Such a position would have to be structured, have low stress, require routine tasks, involve repetition, and not require independent clinical assessment or decisions.
11. On or about October 1, 2020, Petitioner withdrew his petition for reinstatement of licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse.
12. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
13. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
14. 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, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.

15. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's mental status as provided in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.29(e)&(f) and in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33.
16. Relicensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
17. The Executive Director's review of Petitioner's eligibility for relicensure has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. This reinstatement is made pursuant to Sections 301.453(c) and 301.467, Texas Occupations Code and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26.
3. The Board may relicense an individual upon evaluation of the factors in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, if the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform his conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
4. 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, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
5. The Board may license an individual who has a history of mental illness 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.
6. 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).
7. 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. REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of RICARDO MENDEZ for reinstatement of license to practice registered nursing in the State of Texas be **GRANTED** and Registered Nurse License Number 534126 is hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245 is not reinstated and shall remain in voluntary surrendered status in accordance with the terms of the December 1, 2016, Agreed Order.

- A. Until successfully completed, this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. As a result of this Order, PETITIONER'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

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

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR REFRESHER COURSE, EXTENSIVE ORIENTATION, OR NURSING PROGRAM OF STUDY IN PROFESSIONAL REGISTERED NURSING

Prior to practicing as a registered nurse in the State of Texas, PETITIONER SHALL:

- A. Apply for a Six Month Temporary Permit to Complete Refresher Course, Extensive Orientation, or Nursing Program of Study in Professional Registered Nursing for the limited purpose of completing a refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in professional registered nursing. The application for the Six Month Temporary Permit is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER SHALL NOT, in any way, attempt to use the temporary permit for any purpose other than completing the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in professional registered nursing.
- B. Successfully complete a Board approved refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for professional registered nursing. Petitioner MUST obtain Board approval of the nursing refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program, as applicable, prior to enrollment. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include registered nurses and the course's content shall, at a minimum, include: 1) Review of NPA, Rules, Position Statements; 2) Determination of Individual Scope of Practice and role in patient safety; 3) Review of the nursing process to include assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation; 4) Pharmacology review; 5) Medication administration; 6) Documentation, quality assurance, and legal implication for nursing practice; and, 7) Documentation of current CPR certification prior to beginning precepted clinical learning experience. The course must contain no less than a total of 80 hours of clinical practice providing direct patient care supervised by a qualified registered nurse instructor who meets or exceeds the Board's minimum criteria for eligibility as an instructor. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. Upon completion of the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for professional registered nursing, PETITIONER SHALL return the temporary permit to the Board's office and PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to notify the Board, on a form provided by the Board, of Petitioner's successful completion of the refresher course, including the required 80 hours of supervised practice.
- D. Upon verification of successful completion of the conditions as set out in Paragraphs A through C of this Section, PETITIONER SHALL submit a completed License Reactivation Form for Registered Nurses, which is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER shall pay all re-registration fees and, subject to meeting all other requirements for licensure in Texas, shall be issued the applicable license to practice registered nursing in the State of Texas, which shall be subject to the terms of this Order.

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 relicensure, 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), 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. RN EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, PETITIONER must work as a registered 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 registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a registered nurse (RN)

license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- A. **Notifying Present and Future Employers:** PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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:** PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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. **No Night or Rotating Shifts, Overtime, or On-Call:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Registered Nurse under this Order, PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER is regularly assigned.
- D. **No Critical Care:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Registered Nurse under this Order, PETITIONER 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. **Direct Supervision:** For the first two (2) years [eight (8) quarters] of employment as a Registered Nurse under this order, PETITIONER SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as PETITIONER and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. PETITIONER SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- F. **Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation period, PETITIONER SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as PETITIONER, 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 PETITIONER is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

- G. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the PETITIONER 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 registered nurse.

VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

With the exception of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245, which shall remain in voluntary surrendered status, upon full compliance with the terms of this Reinstatement Agreed Order, all other encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'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, PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I understand this Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of my petition and disclosures. I further understand that subsequently discovered discrepancies in my petition and/or disclosures will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of my license(s).

I have reviewed this Order. I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order. 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 agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to reinstating my license(s) to practice nursing in the state of Texas. 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(s) and/or nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

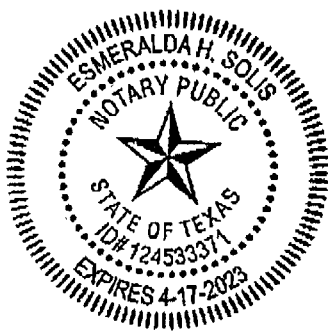
Signed this 24th day of November 2020

Ricardo Mendez
RICARDO MENDEZ, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

24th day of November 2020

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

Approved as to form and substance.

Dan Lype
Dan Lype, Attorney for Petitioner

Signed this 30th day of November, 2020

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the 24th day of November, 2020, by RICARDO MENDEZ, Registered Nurse License Number 534126, and said Reinstatement Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of January, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED
Nurse License Number AP120245	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 534126	§	
issued to RICARDO MENDEZ	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of RICARDO MENDEZ, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245 and Registered Nurse License Number 534126, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

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 Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Texas Southmost College, Brownsville, Texas, on June 1, 1986, received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, in May 1989, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, Texas, on May 15, 2010. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 22,

1986 and was licensed to practice as a advanced practice registered nursing in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner with prescriptive authorization in the State of Texas on May 3, 2011.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1986 - 1994	Charge Nurse/Circulator Operating Room	Valley Baptist Medical Center Harlingen, Texas
01/94 - 08/94	Director of Operating Room	McAllen Medical Center McAllen, Texas
1994 - 1997	Assistant Director of Operating Room	McAllen Heart Hospital McAllen, Texas
1997 - 12/10	Staff Nurse/Emergency Department	Starr County Memorial Hospital Rio Grande City, Texas
1998 - 2007	Director of Operating Room	Cornerstone Regional Hospital Edinburg, Texas
01/09 - 08/09	Recovery Staff Nurse Cath Lab	Doctor's Hospital @ Renaissance Edinburg, Texas
12/10 - 05/11	Director of Surgical Services	Edinburg Regional Medical Center Edinburg, Texas
11/11 - 05/12	Family Nurse Practitioner	All Family Clinic of South Texas McAllen, Texas
06/11 - 10/13	Family Nurse Practitioner	Alton Family Clinic Alton, Texas
10/13 - Unknown	Family Nurse Practitioner	Palm Village Family Clinic, LLC Penitas, Texas

6. On or about May 18, 2016, Respondent entered into a Plea Agreement in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division, Criminal Cause No. M-17-762-01, in which he agreed:

- To plead guilty to Count One of the Indictment (Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud);
- That the intended loss amount to the Texas Medicaid program will be determined based on the billed amount of \$49,235.22; and

- To the imposition of a personal money judgment against him in the amount of \$14,333.23, which Respondent admits represents the gross proceeds of the conspiracy that are subject to forfeiture.

Count One of the Indictment (Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud) filed in June 2015, in the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, McAllen Division, Criminal Cause No. M-17-762-01, generally charged that:

On or about August 1, 2014 through on or about March 16, 2015, the Respondent, along with other named individuals, conspired to defraud the health care benefit programs known as Medicare and Texas Medicaid.

7. Formal Charges were filed and mailed to Respondent on June 24, 2016.
8. Respondent, by his signature to this Order, expresses his willingness to voluntarily surrender his licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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(13).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245 and Registered Nurse License Number 534126, heretofore issued to RICARDO MENDEZ, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
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.
6. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
7. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
8. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245 and Registered Nurse License Number 534126, heretofore issued to RICARDO MENDEZ, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

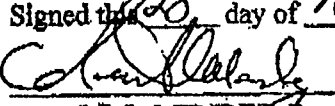
1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice advanced practice registered nursing, use the title "advanced practice registered nurse" or the abbreviation "APRN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as an advanced practice registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is an advanced practice registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
3. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
4. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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.

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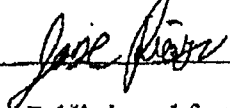
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed 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 becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

Signed this 28 day of November, 2016.

RICARDO MENDEZ, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of November, 2016.




Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.


Lara L. Silva, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 28 day of November, 2016.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120245 and Registered Nurse License Number 534126, previously issued to RICARDO MENDEZ.



Effective this 1st day of December, 2016.

Katherine A. Thomas

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

I certify this to be a true copy of the records on file with the Texas Board of Nursing.

Date:

Signed:

12/5/2016
Melissa L.