



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.
 Executive Director of the Board

Texas Board of Nursing

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Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

March 19, 2021

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0035 7201 87
Return Receipt Requested
Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Bridget Norris Kirk
 27 Mockingbird Xing
 Durant, OK 74701

Dear Ms. Kirk:

Your Petition for Licensure Reinstatement and the supporting information related to your potential ineligibility for relicensure was considered by the Executive Director on November 12, 2020.

Pursuant to the Occupations Code §§301.257, 301.452, and 301.453, you have been found to be ineligible for reinstatement of licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas based upon the grounds discussed below. **This is a final determination of licensure reinstatement denial.**

Our records indicate the following:

On or about March 21, 2017, your license to practice nursing was Revoked through a Default Order by the Board.

- On or about October 1, 2015, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent withdrew Dilaudid from the medication dispensing system without a valid physician's order, as follows:
- On or about October 1, 2015, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of opiates in that she produced a specimen for a for cause drug screen that resulted positive for opiates. In addition, Respondent admitted to taking Hydrocodone from a friend for her migraine.
- On or about January 3, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Dilaudid belonging to the facility and patients thereof, in that she took the medication, which had been placed on top of a medication cart, from another nurse without her knowledge. Subsequently, Respondent admitted to taking the narcotics in an attempt to prove a point that narcotics should not be left lying around; however, she later admitted to taking Dilaudid for the purpose of using, but returned them after a moment of clarity.
- On or about April 4, 2016, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), and employed with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent withdrew Xanax from the medication dispensing system, but failed to document and/or accurately and completely

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document the administration of the medication in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurses' Notes.

- On or about April 4, 2016, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), and employed with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent withdrew Xanax from the medication dispensing system, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of the unused portions of the medications.
- On or about April 4, 2016, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), and employed with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Xanax, belonging to the facility of patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation.
- On or about April 4, 2016, while participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN), and employed with Texoma Medical Center, Denison, Texas, Respondent failed to comply with all the requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term. Specifically, noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to adhere to the narcotic/controlled substance restriction during the first six months of work in nursing, in that she pulled a controlled substance from the medication dispensing system. Consequently, on April 15, 2016, due to Respondent's noncompliance, TPAPN closed her case and referred her to the Texas Board of Nursing.

On or about December 4, 2017, Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Oklahoma was issued a Voluntary Surrender by the Oklahoma State Board of Nursing, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

- On or about October 2-3, 2016, the Respondent, while working as a RN in the ICU at Mercy Hospital in Ardmore, Oklahoma, consented to a for-cause drug screen at the request of Hospital Administration after a review of Respondent's Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) medication administration practices identified a pattern of the Respondent administering higher doses of Hydromorphone, a Schedule II CDS medication to patients as compared to other nurses caring for the same patients. The Respondent tested positive for Morphine and Hydromorphone as confirmed by GC/MS and reported by a Medical Review Officer. The Respondent was subsequently terminated from the Hospital. The Respondent admitted to Board Staff that she had diverted Dilaudid and Morphine from the Hospital for her personal use.
- On December 2, 2016, the Respondent voluntarily entered in the Board's Peer Assistance Program (PAP).
- On May 2, 2017, Respondent defaulted from the PAP program for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of her contract.

Additionally, You are subject to denial of licensure for this conduct pursuant to the following subsections of the Occupations Code §301.452(b):

- Petitioner did not provide evidence of 1 year of sobriety requested by the Board. Additionally, when asked to complete a Forensic Psychological Evaluation, Petitioner did not submit a response.

The Board also requires petitioners to demonstrate their ability to consistently conform to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice; to possess good professional character; and to pose no threat to the health and safety of patients and the public. The Board has adopted a rule, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27, that sets forth the factors and disciplinary and eligibility policies and guidelines that must be used in evaluating good professional character in eligibility and disciplinary matters. Based upon the factors specified in §213.27, you have failed to provide sufficient evidence of good professional character required by §213.27. The Board has also adopted

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a rule, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.29, regarding fitness to practice. You have failed to provide sufficient evidence of current fitness to practice based upon the criteria set forth in this rule.

Texas Occupations Code Chapter 301, as well as the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27; §213.29-§213.33, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies are hereby incorporated by reference herein and may be located on the Board's website at www.bon.texas.gov.

You will not be allowed to petition for reinstatement until at least one (1) year from the date of this denial and until you have satisfied any conditions outlined in your order and any requirements required by law at the time of your application.

Due to this denial, you have the right to a public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge with the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Should you decide to appeal the decision to deny you licensure, please submit a written request for a public hearing, to the attention of Office of General Counsel, 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460, Austin, Texas, 78701. Your written request to appeal this decision must be received in our office within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter. Further, if this office receives information regarding additional criminal conduct or behavior that has not been previously disclosed to or discovered by this office, please be advised that evidence of such additional criminal conduct or behavior may be used against you during the public hearing in this matter to show that you lack the good professional character and other requirements for licensure.

Further, should the decision to deny your licensure be upheld by the State Office of Administrative Hearings, you will be entitled to judicial review by filing an action in the district court of Travis County, Texas. A petition for such an action must be filed not later than the 30th day after the date the licensing authority's decision is final and appealable.

If you have any questions, please contact Enforcement at (512) 305-6838.

Sincerely,



Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

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