

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Registered Nurse License Number 986263	§	
issued to JAMES HOWARD GRAY	§	
	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JAMES HOWARD GRAY, Registered Nurse License Number 986263, 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)(1),(9)&(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 June 14, 2021.

## 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 professional nurse in the State of Texas is in suspended status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Brookhaven College, Farmers Branch, Texas, on December 1, 2019. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 12, 2020.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
6. On or about March 8, 2016, Respondent was issued an Eligibility Agreed Order through an Order of the Board. A copy of the March 8, 2016, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.

7. On or about July 24, 2020, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Eligibility Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on March 8, 2016. Noncompliance is the result of his failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) participation agreement, in that Respondent failed to abstain from the consumption of controlled substances in that he produced a specimen for a hair drug screen that resulted positive for cocaine and cocaine metabolites. Respondent failed to comply with Section (4) of the Agreed Eligibility Order dated March 8, 2016, which states, in pertinent part: "PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term..." On or about February 9, 2021, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred back to the Board.
8. On or about January 29, 2021, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Golden Acres Living and Rehabilitation, Dallas, Texas, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Eligibility Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on March 8, 2016. Noncompliance is the result of his failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) participation agreement, in that Respondent failed to abstain from the consumption of controlled substances in that he produced a specimen for a hair drug screen that resulted positive for cocaine and cocaine metabolites. Respondent failed to comply with Section (4) of the Agreed Eligibility Order dated March 8, 2016, which states, in pertinent part: "PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term..." On or about February 9, 2021, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred back to the Board.
9. Formal Charges were filed and Respondent's license was suspended on June 1, 2021.

#### 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(1)(A),(4),(5),(9),(10)(A),(10)(D)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 986263, heretofore issued to JAMES HOWARD GRAY.
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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 986263, previously issued to JAMES HOWARD GRAY, to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **ENFORCED** until RESPONDENT:

- A. Completes an appropriate treatment program approved by the Board;
- B. Provides documentation of successful completion; and
- C. Obtains twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety, which may be demonstrated by monthly urine drug screens consistent with the "DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS" of this Order.

**Any relapse prior to the completion of the required twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in revocation or, at a minimum, an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the above requirements, the Suspension will be **STAYED**, and RESPONDENT will be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of three (3) years **AND** until RESPONDENT fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

- D. RESPONDENT SHALL submit an application for licensure renewal/reactivation, as applicable, and pay all re-registration fees, if any, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be activated and updated to current status and to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.
- E. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- F. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- g. Until successfully completed, RESPONDENT may not practice nursing in the State of Texas except in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- H. As a result of this Order, RESPONDENT'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and RESPONDENT 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, 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. SUPERSEDING ORDER**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction and conditions of this Agreed Order SHALL supersede all previous stipulations required by any Order entered by the Texas Board of Nursing.

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

**V. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)**

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial

education course(s) within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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), RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

## VI. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a 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 nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as appropriate, will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- A. **Notifying Present and Future Employers:** RESPONDENT 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, RESPONDENT 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:** RESPONDENT 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. RESPONDENT 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 Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT is regularly assigned.
- D. **No Critical Care:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT 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. **No Administration of Controlled Medications:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, Propofol, or other synthetic opiates.
- F. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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.

- G. **Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as 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 of 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.
- H. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT 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 nurse.

## VII. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all 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 the prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.
- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances. The Board will provide instructions on how to enroll in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program following the entry of this Order and screening will begin when RESPONDENT obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.

- For the first three (3) month [1<sup>st</sup> quarter] period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, random screens shall be performed at least once per week.
- For the next three (3) month [2<sup>nd</sup> quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
- For the next six (6) month period [3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters], random screens shall be performed at least once per month.
- For the remainder of the probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Any test result for a period of time in which the RESPONDENT is not working as a nurse under the terms of this Order will not count towards satisfaction of this requirement. 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/probation period.

**Specimens shall be screened** for any or all of the following substances and/or their metabolites:

Amphetamine	Methamphetamine	MDMA
MDA	Alprazolam	Diazepam
Alpha-o-alprazolam	Alpha-Hydroxytriazolam	Clonazepam
Desmethyldiazepam	Lorazepam	Midazolam
Oxazepam	Temazepam	Amobarbital
Butabarbital	Butalbital	Pentobarbital
Phenobarbital	Secobarbital	Codeine
Hydrocodone	Hydromorphone	Methadone
Morphine	Opiates	Oxycodone
Oxymorphone	Propoxyphene	Cannabinoids
Cocaine	Phencyclidine	Ethanol
Heroin	Fentanyl	Tramadol
Meperidine	Carisoprodol	Butorphanol
Nalbuphine	Ketamine	Propofol

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, **RESPONDENT SHALL, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not RESPONDENT has been selected to produce a specimen for screening that day** and SHALL, if selected, produce a specimen for screening that same day at an approved testing location and/or comply with any additional instructions from the vendor or Board staff. Further, **a Board representative may appear** at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.



**Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens.** Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to further disciplinary action, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

- C. **While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week,** one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) month quarterly period. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

#### **VIII. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the RESPONDENT'S conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Agreed Order, result in subsequent judicial action, including a deferred disposition, RESPONDENT may be subject to further disciplinary action, up to, and including, revocation of RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

#### **IX. FURTHER COMPLAINTS**

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against RESPONDENT'S license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

**X. 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.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

**RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

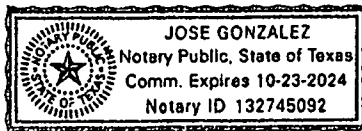
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing 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 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 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

JH RN  
JAMES HOWARD GRAY, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16 day of June, 2021.

SEAL



[Signature]  
Notary Public in and for the State of TX


Approved as to form and substance.

Taralynn R. Mackay  
Taralynn R. Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 16 day of June, 2021.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 16th day of June, 2021, by JAMES HOWARD GRAY, Registered Nurse License Number 986263, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 17th day of June, 2021.

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



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.  
*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of	§	AGREED
JAMES HOWARD GRAY,	§	
PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure	§	ELIGIBILITY ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by JAMES HOWARD GRAY, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and Petitioner's Certification contained herein.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may be ineligible for licensure pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(3),(9)&(10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on February 1, 2012, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about October 27, 2015, PETITIONER submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.253, 301.257 and 301.258, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.30.
2. Petitioner waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
3. Petitioner was enrolled in a professional nursing program at West Coast University, Dallas, Texas, at the time of this petition.

4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "Yes" to the question which reads as follows: *"For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:*
- A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?*
  - B. been convicted of a felony?*
  - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?*
  - D. received deferred adjudication?*
  - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?*
  - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?*
  - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?*
  - H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?*
  - I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?*
  - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?*
- (You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)"*

5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:

- A. On or about May 17, 2000, Petitioner was arrested by the Denton Police Department, Denton, Texas, for POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA < 2 OZ, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about October 11, 2000, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA < 2 OZ, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on May 17, 2000, in the County Criminal Court No. 2 of Denton County, Texas, under Cause No. CR2000-04319B. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months. On or about March 3, 2015, Petitioner was granted an Order of Non -Disclosure.

- B. On or about July 26, 2000, Petitioner was arrested by the Denton County Sheriff's Office, Denton, Texas, for POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA < 2 OZ, a Class B misdemeanor offense.

On or about October 11, 2000, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA < 2 OZ, a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on July 26, 2000, in the County Criminal Court No. 2 of Denton County, Texas, under Cause No. CR2000-06889B. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months. On or about March 3, 2015, Petitioner was granted an Order of Non -Disclosure.

- C. On or about June 1, 2005, Petitioner was arrested by the Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas, for POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PG 1 < 1 G, a State Jail felony offense.

On or about April 6, 2006, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to POSS CS, a State Jail felony offense committed on June 1, 2005, in the 203<sup>rd</sup> District Court of Dallas County, Texas, under Cause No. F-0553274. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of two (2) years. On or about April 7, 2008, Petitioner completed the terms and conditions of probation and was discharged and the charge was dismissed.

- D. On or about April 23, 2009, Petitioner was arrested by the Denton Police Department, Denton, Texas, for POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE PG 1 < 1G, a State Jail felony offense.

On or about November 19, 2009, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to and was convicted of POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, a State Jail felony offense committed on April 23, 2009, in the 367<sup>th</sup> District Court of Denton County, Texas, under Cause No. F-2009-2050-E. As a result of the conviction, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - State Jail Division for a period of two (2) years; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years.

On or about June 16, 2011, the probation granted Petitioner under Cause No. F-2009-2050-E, was revoked, in the 367<sup>th</sup> District Court of Denton County, Texas, based on findings by the Court that Petitioner had violated the terms and conditions of probation. As a result, Petitioner was sentenced to confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - State Jail Division for a period of six (6) months.

- E. On or about August 29, 2009, Petitioner was arrested by the Denton Police Department, Denton, Texas, and subsequently charged under Cause No. CR-2009-07355-B for POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUG, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on August 29, 2009. On or about December 14, 2009, Cause No. CR-2009-07355-B was dismissed in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Denton County, Texas, for the reason: Petitioner provided proof of a valid prescription for the drug at the time of the offense.

6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
7. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "Yes" to the question which reads as follows: *"Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?"*

8. Petitioner attended AA meetings while incarcerated and submitted a drug screen result dated August 3, 2015.
9. The safety of patients and the public requires that all persons licensed to practice nursing be fit, sober, and able to consistently practice nursing in autonomous roles under demanding and stressful conditions.
10. Petitioner has sworn that, with the exception of matters disclosed in connection with the Petition for Declaratory Order, his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27.
11. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
12. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.
13. 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, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
14. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's substance abuse/chemical dependency, and subsequent rehabilitation as provided in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.29 and in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33.
15. Licensure 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.
16. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.
17. Petitioner has been advised by the Board that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading to the Board or a subsequent discovery of a basis of ineligibility will be considered by the Board and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through fraud or deceit.
18. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Sections 301.452 and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.



2. On or about October 27, 2015, PETITIONER submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Sections 301.252, 301.253, 301.257 and 301.258, Texas Occupations Code, and the Board's Rules at 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.30.
3. Petitioner's history reflects conduct which may constitute grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452(b)(3),(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code.
4. The Board may probate the denial of a license under conditions for a specified term pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.
5. 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, if applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
6. The Board may license an individual who has a history of substance abuse and/or chemical dependency 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.
7. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, 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.
8. 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).

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED that, upon meeting the requirements for graduation of an appropriate program in nursing education and payment of any required fees, PETITIONER is ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN® Examination) and/or the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN® Examination), as applicable.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse (GVN) and/or as a Graduate Nurse (GN), as applicable, in the State of Texas.

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of licensure, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'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/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that, upon payment of any required fees and upon attaining a passing grade on the appropriate National Council Licensure Examination, PETITIONER shall be issued the applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, and while under the terms of this Order all licenses issued to PETITIONER shall be subject to the terms of this Order

and said license(s) SHALL BE immediately SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until PETITIONER complies with Stipulation Numbers Two (2) and Three (3) of this Order:

(2) PETITIONER SHALL apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.

(3) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of compliance with Stipulation Numbers Two (2) and Three (3), the SUSPENSION will be stayed, and PETITIONER SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for PETITIONER to successfully complete the TPAPN:

(4) PETITIONER SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

(5) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

PETITIONER SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and PETITIONER'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.

PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER'S license is encumbered by this Order, PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of PETITIONER'S license(s) and nurse licensure compact 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 PETITIONER'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

BALANCE OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

## PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

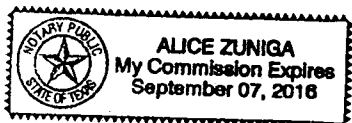
I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past conduct which could constitute grounds for licensure ineligibility, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my application, has been in conformity with the Board's character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past conduct in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my application, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Sections 301.157(d), 301.252, 301.253, 301.257, 301.258, 301.260, 301.452, and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§213.27, 213.28, 213.29, and 213.30. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Temporary Permit to practice nursing. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to accepting any license from the Texas Board of Nursing.

I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of my potential ineligibility for licensure through peer assistance.

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 EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of my license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Texas Board of Nursing ratify this Order.



Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016.

JAMES H. GRAY  
JAMES HOWARD GRAY, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of Feb, 2016.

SEAL

Alice Zuniga  
Notary Public in and for the State of TX

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Eligibility Order that was signed on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, by JAMES HOWARD GRAY, PETITIONER for Eligibility for Licensure, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.



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