

#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number AP113275 with Prescription	§	
Authorization Number 5557	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 255200	§	
issued to DANIEL J. LOWE	-	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DANIEL J. LOWE, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113275, and Registered Nurse License Number 255200, 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)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was conducted on July 6, 2021, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent appeared by telephone. Respondent was represented by Courtney Newton, Attorney at 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 Agreed Order.
- 3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as a Family Nurse Practitioner is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number in current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas, on May 1, 1981. Respondent completed a Family Nurse Practitioner Program from Baylor University, Dallas, Texas, on May 15, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 8, 1981.

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Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Prescription Authorization on July 8, 2004.

# 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

9/1981 - 4/1990	RN	Southeastern Methodist Hospital Dallas, Texas
5/1990 — 3/1994	RN	Doctor's Hospital Dallas, Texas
6/1990 – 5/1996	RN	Physician's Regional Hospital Wylie, Texas
11/1994 – 4/1995	RN	Surgery Center of Mesquite Mesquite, Texas
5/1996 – 1/1997	RN	Office of Dr. Kenneth Bernal Rockwall, Texas
1/1997 – 4/1998	RN	Fort Worth Bureau of Engraving OSHA Work Site Clinic Fort Worth, Texas
3/1998 – 4/2002	RN	Texas Cancer Center
4/2002 — 12/2004	RN	Spirit Home Health Agency Dallas, Texas
2/2004 - 10/2004	FNP	Office of Dr. Jennifer Weatherly
10/2004 – 2009	On-Call FNP	Offices of Dr. Bryan White and Dr. Gene Bigham
10/2005 – Unknown	FNP	Med-One
10/2015 - 7/2020	FNP	Family Medical Center Denton, Texas
7/2020-Present	FNP	Cottonwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Denton, Texas
7/2020-Present	FNP	Cedar Ridge Rehabilitation Healthcare Center Pilot Point, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

7/2020-Present

**FNP** 

Pilot Point Care Center Pilot Point, Texas

- 6. On or about October 16, 1995, Respondent was issued the sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations through an Order of the Board. On or about December 20, 1996, Respondent successfully completed the terms of the Order. A copy of the October 16, 1995, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
- 7. On or about November 13, 2006, Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas were Suspended with the Suspension stayed and Respondent was placed on probation through an Order of the Board. On or about November 10, 2008, Respondent successfully completed the terms of the Order. A copy of the November 13, 2006, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
- 8. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Family Medical Center, Denton, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) years.
- 9. On or about October 21, 2019, through May 5, 2020, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Family Medical Center, Denton, Texas, Respondent failed appropriately intervene and/or refer Patient MB to nephrology when the patient's glomerular filtration rate (GFR) was abnormally low at 45 on October 21, 2019, and further decreased to 38 on May 5, 2020. Instead, Respondent inaccurately documented that labs were stable and instructed the patient to return in six (6) months. Subsequently, the patient's GFR dropped to 24 on September 2, 2020. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from worsening of kidney function and delayed the onset of specialized care.
- 10. In response to Finding of Fact Number Nine (9), Respondent states the patient was treated for renal insufficiency, hypertension and Type II diabetes and showed improvement in her blood pressure and creatinine level over the period of time Respondent saw the patient.

#### 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 \$217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(D),(1)(M)&(1)(Q) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE \$217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C)&(4).

- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113275 with Prescription Authorization Number 5557 & Registered Nurse License Number 255200, heretofore issued to DANIEL J. LOWE.
- 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 **REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS** 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. Until successfully completed, RESPONDENT may not practice nursing in the State of Texas except in accordance with the terms of this Order.
- D. 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. 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.

#### IV. 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 effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- A. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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. A Board-approved course in nursing documentation that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. <u>The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"</u> a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension.

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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 <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance">www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</a>.

#### V. APRN EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice 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 eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies: RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.
- B. Notification of Employment Forms: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit

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the Board's "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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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.

#### C. Monitored Practice and Incident Reporting:

RESPONDENT'S advanced practice registered nursing must be monitored by a Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT MUST, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order or within (10) days of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse, provide to the Board a list of three (3) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and/or three (3) Physicians from which the Board shall select an approved monitor. For each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician, the list must include name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of RESPONDENT'S receipt of the name of the approved monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited with the exception of RESPONDENT'S current employment as a FNP at Cottonwood Nursing and Rehabilitation, Denton, Texas, at Cedar Ridge Rehabilitation Healthcare Center, Pilot Point, Texas, and at Pilot Point Care Center, Pilot Point, Texas. Should RESPONDENT'S current employment as a FNP at Cottonwood Nursing and Rehabilitation, Denton, Texas, at Cedar Ridge Rehabilitation Healthcare Center, Pilot Point, Texas, and at Pilot Point Care Center, Pilot Point, Texas, cease or change, multiple employers SHALL BE prohibited.

Further, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.

D. Nursing Performance Reports: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises/monitors the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse.

## 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.

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#### 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 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 Aday of

DANIEL/I. LOWE, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of July, 2

SARAPE BURKES

ID # 12501819-4 Comm. Expires 1/11/2022 Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Courtney Newton, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 29th day of July , 2021.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, by DANIEL J. LOWE, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP113275, and Registered Nurse License Number 255200, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of September, 2021.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board



In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 255200

issued to DANIEL J. LOWE

§ AGREED

§.

ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DANIEL J. LOWE, Registered Nurse License Number 255200, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Article 4525(b)(3), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended and Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 16, 2006, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas on May 14, 1981. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, on September 8, 1981. On July 8, 2004, Respondent received recognition by the Board as a Family Nurse Practitioner and received Prescriptive Authorization on July 30, 2004.

- 5. Respondent's complete nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about October 16, 1995, Respondent was issued the sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. A copy of the October 16, 1995, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about June 19, 1996, Respondent was convicted of the offense of Driving While Intoxicated, Class B Misdemeanor, in the County Court at Law #1, Waxahachie County, Texas, Cause # 9610641. Respondent was sentenced to sixty days (60) in the Waxahachie County Jail with the imposition of sentence suspended, and placed on two years (2) probation, ordered to pay a fine in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), and court costs in the amount of two hundred five dollars (\$205.00).
- 8. On or about April 28, 2005, Respondent was convicted of the offense of Driving While Intoxicated, Class A Misdemeanor, in the County Court at Law #1, Waxahachie County, Texas, Cause # 0413063CR. Respondent was sentenced to three hundred sixty-five days (365) in the Waxahachie County Jail with the imposition of sentence suspended, and placed on two years (2) community supervision, ordered to pay a fine in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), and court costs in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 9. On or about December 14, 2005, Respondent submitted a renewal application to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas in which he provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that he answered "No" to the following question:
  - "Have you ever been convicted, adjudicated guilty by a court, plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests (excluding minor traffic violations) since your last renewal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUIs, DWIs, and PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes".)"
- 10. 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 alcohol

#### **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 violations of Article 4525(b)(3), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., Section 301.452(b)(1),(2),(3)& (10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 255200, heretofore issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

#### <u>ORDER</u>

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that Registered Nurse License Number 255200, previously issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, to practice professional nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of two (2) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this order the Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 et seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et seq. and this Order.

- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days of the date of this Order for appropriate notation.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a preapproved 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) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. 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 on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of

nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. Board approved courses may be found on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Board of Nurse Examiners in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED 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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS 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 PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions 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 professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions 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.

- (7) 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.
- (8) RESPONDENT 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 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.
- (9) 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

professional nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered 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) months for two (2) years of employment as a professional nurse.

(10) 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.

(11) 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 second three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines Barbiturates

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Meperidine Methadone Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine

Propoxyphene

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.

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 probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional 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 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

a supply will be durated and. 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 16 day of 9ch - 20 06

DANIEL J. LOWE, Respondent

day of 0d , 2006.

Notary Public in and for the State of Jexa

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>26th</u> day of <u>October</u>, <u>2006</u>, by DANIEL J. LOWE, Registered Nurse License Number 255200, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of November, 2006

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

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Permanent Certificate
Number 255200 issued to
DANIEL J. LOWE

§ AMENDED § AGREED ORDER

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On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DANIEL J. LOWE, license number 255200, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Article 4525(b)(9), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice, hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order offered by Louise Waddill, Executive Director, PhD, RN, 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 conference, notice, hearing, and consented to the entry of this order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing in May 1981 from Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas.
- On or about July 18, 1994, while employed with Doctor's Hospital, Dallas, Texas, Respondent falsely documented Vital Signs for patient record number 000198305 who had been admitted into the Emergency Room for "injury to the little finger".

  Respondent did not take this patient's vital signs.
- On or about July 19, 1994, while employed with the aforementioned facility, Respondent falsely documented Vital Signs for patient record number 000162130 who had been admitted into the Emergency Room for an "uncomfortable-pervious arm injury." Respondent did not take this patient's vital signs.

- 7. Vital signs are literally the "signs of life." They include the measurement of body temperature, pulse and respiratory rates, and blood pressure. Vital signs are used as indicators of health or illness of the patient. Vital signs are readily measurable and are compared to norms of physiological functions. Vital signs are critical in the diagnosis of a patient's change in condition.
- 8. Respondent's false documentation in Findings of Fact 5 and 6 was likely to deceive other healthcare personnel caring for these patients in that care may have been provided based on inaccurate documentation of the patient's condition.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Article 4525, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received was sufficient to prove violation(s) of Article 4525(b)(9) TEX REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217,13(5)
- The activities of the Respondent constituted sufficient cause pursuant to Article 4525(b), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., to take disciplinary action against license number 255200, heretofore issued to DANIEL J. LOWE.

#### AGREED SANCTIONS

Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a Reprimand, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Art. 4513 et. seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education.

Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et. seq. and this order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following stipulations for one year:

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-size license issued to DANIEL J.

  LOWE, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days of the date of this order for appropriate notation.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this order, successfully complete a course in Nursing Jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home Study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience must include registered muses. It must be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content should inch in the Nursing Practice Act, Standards of Practice, and documentation of care. 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 is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicinguirs.

- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in professional nursing of this order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a copy of this order to each present employer within five (5) days of notification of this order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all potential employers in professional nursing of this order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a copy of this order to each potential employer prior to employment.
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in professional nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of notification of this order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each potential employer to submit the Notification of Employment form to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a professional nurse.
- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice professional mursing. These reports shall be completed by the registered murse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for one (1) year of employment as a professional murse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

# 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 violation(s) alleged. By my signature on this order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Agreed Sanctions, and any stipulation(s) of this order to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I consent to the issuance of the Agreed Sanctions. I waive judicial review of this order. I understand that this order is subject to ratification by the Board. When the order is ratified, the terms of this order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me.

	Signed this 0 day of	3 191
	Janiel J. LOWE	
Sworn to and subscribed before	me this 3+ol day of Delole	<u>~1995</u>
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# WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners

for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 3rd day of October, 1995, by DANIEL J. LOWE, license number 255200, and said order is final.

Effective this 16th day of October, 1995.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, CPNP Interim Executive Director