



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 ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License §
Number AP120662 with Prescription §
Authorization Number 11571 §
& Registered Nurse License Number 675497 §
issued to JESSICA RUTH STRICKLAND

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JESSICA RUTH STRICKLAND, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120662 with Prescription Authorization Number 11571, and Registered Nurse License Number 675497, 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)(effective through 8/31/2021), 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 April 30, 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 current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Baylor University, Dallas, Texas, on December 13, 2000. Respondent completed an Acute Care Adult Nurse

Practitioner Program from University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, Texas, on May 6, 2011. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 20, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner on July 27, 2011. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner with Prescription Authorization on July 27, 2011.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2001 – 2003	Registered Nurse	Medical City Dallas Hospital Dallas, Texas
2003-2005	Registered Nurse	Covenant Medical Center Lubbock, Texas
2005-2011	Registered Nurse	Methodist Willowbrook Hospital Houston, Texas
2011-Present	Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner	Houston Pulmonary Sleep and Allergy Associates Cypress, Texas
11/2019- Present	Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner	Blades Wellness & Aesthetics Cypress, Texas

6. At the time of the care at issue, Respondent was employed as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner with Blades Wellness & Aesthetics, Cypress, Texas, and had been in that position for six (6) months.

7. On or about May 21, 2020, through December 8, 2020, while employed as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner with Blades Wellness & Aesthetics, Cypress, Texas, Respondent implanted testosterone pellets into Patient TG, a female patient with normal testosterone levels, without written protocols to follow regarding testosterone treatment. Additionally, Respondent prescribed spironolactone off-label to the patient to address side effects from increased testosterone levels. Testosterone is not approved for use in female patients. The patient experienced elevated testosterone levels to 472 ng/dL. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to a potential risk of harm from adverse effects of unnecessary testosterone dosing, including risk of increased hemoglobin and hematocrit, and heart attack or stroke.

8. On or about May 21, 2020, through December 8, 2020, while employed as an Acute Care Adult Nurse Practitioner with Blades Wellness & Aesthetics, Cypress, Texas, Respondent prescribed Armor Thyroid to Patient TG, who had normal thyroid levels, and documented a diagnosis of sick-euthyroid syndrome. Additionally, Respondent failed to document

discontinuation of the two thyroid medications that had been previously prescribed by a different practice/provider. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete and inaccurate medical record and exposed the patient to a potential risk of harm from adverse effects of unnecessary hormone dosing. The patient did not report any adverse effects.

9. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that the patient was informed that implantable pellets are monitored by the FDA but are not approved for use in this context and are not regulated by the FDA; the patient signed the consent form which includes this information. Respondent states that she prescribed spironolactone to help prevent the adverse effects of testosterone replacement, such as hirsutism and/or acne. Respondent states that testosterone has been shown to address poor libido and decreased mood/cognition in women and has been used in women by many practitioners for many years. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states that the patient's previous thyroid medications were discontinued, and replaced with Armor Thyroid 120mg. Respondent states that the patient was explicitly told that she did not have hypogonadism or hypothyroidism, but the thyroid hormone could be used in an off-label manner in an effort to relieve symptoms of thyroid hormone deficiency. Respondent states that the patient was monitored with extensive laboratory tests and frequent visits at which time the patient was questioned specifically about any potential hypermetabolic symptoms in response to the thyroid treatment. Respondent adds that the patient signed all consent forms and was educated on all treatments received, was happy with her care, and did not report any concerns.

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)(M)&(4)(B), 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(4), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §222.4(e)(effective through 2/15/21).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13)(effective through 8/31/2021), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120662 with Prescription Authorization Number 11571, and Registered Nurse License Number 675497, heretofore issued to JESSICA RUTH STRICKLAND.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH 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. 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: <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.

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. **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. **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. **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.*

V. 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 four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) 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 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:** 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.

- 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 four (4) quarters [one (1) year] 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.

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 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 22 day of Sept, 2021.

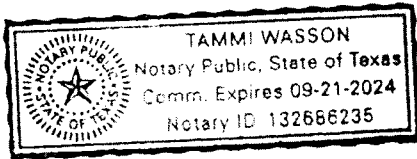
Jessica Strickland
JESSICA RUTH STRICKLAND, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of September, 2021.

SEAL

Saw me

Notary Public in and for the State of Tx



Approved as to form and substance.

Rainy Gibbs
Rainy Gibbs, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 5th day of October, 2021.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 22nd day of September, 2021, by JESSICA RUTH STRICKLAND, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP120662, and Registered Nurse License Number 675497, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of November, 2021.



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