



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.
Michelle O'Hanrahan
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of §
MINDY ELIZABETH RUIZ, §
Registered Nurse License Number 829635 §

ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MINDY ELIZABETH RUIZ, Registered Nurse License Number 829635, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

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

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, Texas, on December 15, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 15, 2013.
4. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1/2013 – 3/2021	Unknown
-----------------	---------

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

4/2021 – 6/2021	Registered Nurse	VITAS Hospice San Antonio, Texas
7/2021 – Present	Unknown	

5. On or about October 5, 2021, the Board provided notice to Respondent that an investigation was being initiated into alleged violations of the Nursing Practice Act and/or the Board's Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure, and Practice, as follows:
 - On or about April 28, 2021, through June 28, 2021, while employed as a Registered Nurse with VITAS Healthcare, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent removed Ativan, Morphine, and Dilaudid from the Medication Dispensing System for multiple patients, but failed to administer the medications, document the administration of the medications, and/or waste the unused portions of the medications. Additionally, Respondent pulled Ativan, Morphine, and Dilaudid for patients that had expired.
 - On or about July 2, 2021, while employed as a Registered Nurse with VITAS Healthcare, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Opiates and Morphine, in that she produced a specimen for a drug screen that resulted positive for Opiates and Morphine.
6. On November 1, 2021, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's statement, dated October 28, 2021, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.

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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(10)(C)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License

Number 829635, heretofore issued to MINDY ELIZABETH RUIZ, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Registered Nurse License Number 829635 is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until:
 - A. At least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and
 - B. RESPONDENT has objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

Effective this 1st day of November, 2021



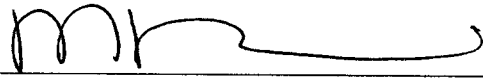
Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board

MINDY ELIZABETH RUIZ
8410 Assumption Drive, San Antonio, TX 78254
RN LICENSE NUMBER 829635

Voluntary Surrender Statement

Dear Texas Board of Nursing:

I no longer desire to be licensed as a nurse. Accordingly, I voluntarily surrender my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas. I consent to the entry of an Order with findings reflecting the alleged conduct and which outlines requirements for reinstatement of my license. I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive attorney representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of the Order entered by the Board. I understand that I may not petition for reinstatement until one (1) year from the effective date of the Order. I understand that I will be required to comply with the Board's Rules and Regulations in effect at the time I submit any petition for reinstatement.

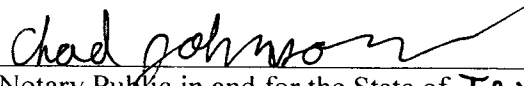
Signature: 
Date: October 28, 2021
RN LICENSE NUMBER 829635

The State of Texas

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared MINDY ELIZABETH RUIZ who, being duly sworn by me, stated that he or she executed the above for the purpose therein contained and that he or she understood same.

Sworn to before me the 28 day of October, 2021.

SEAL


Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

