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*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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|  |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|
| In the Matter of                       | § | AGREED ORDER |
| Vocational Nurse License Number 349721 | § |              |
| issued to ALBERTO LOPEZ                | § |              |
|  | § |              |

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ALBERTO LOPEZ, Vocational Nurse License Number 349721, 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)&(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 September 15, 2022.

## 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Coastal Bend College, Beeville, Texas, on May 22, 2019. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on August 20, 2019.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

|                  |    |   |
|------------------|----|---|
| 8/2019 – Present | RN | Regency Nursing Home<br>Corpus Christi, Texas |
|------------------|----|---|

6. On or about December 1, 2020, through February 13, 2022, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Regency Nursing Home, Corpus Christi, Texas. Respondent continued to practice nursing without current licensure. Respondent's license expired on November 30, 2020 and was not renewed until February 13, 2022.
7. In response to Findings of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states he sincerely apologizes for the situation regarding the mishap of his license renewal. With Covid being rapid throughout the state, and the shortage of workers at the time, he had not realized his license had expired. As a new nurse, he mistakenly thought the renewal was every two years and did not realize his license actually expired less than a year after being issued. Although, it was his own fault he did not renew his license, he was not informed through mail, or other forms of communication that it had expired.

### 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 (11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b) (1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 349721, heretofore issued to ALBERTO LOPEZ.
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 **REMEDIAL EDUCATION WITH FINE** 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: <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. **The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"** a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

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).*

**V. MONETARY FINE**

RESPONDENT SHALL **pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order.**

Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

**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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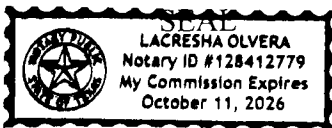
### RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. 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 28 day of December, 2022.

Alberto Lopez  
ALBERTO LOPEZ, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of December, 2022



Lacresha Olvera  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

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 28th day of December, 2022, by ALBERTO LOPEZ, Vocational Nurse License Number 349721, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 3rd day of January, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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