

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse License Number 200409 issued to ERIC R LINDSEY .

REINSTATEMENT AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, conside the Petition for Reinstatement, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, of Vocational Nurse License Number 200409, held by ERIC R LINDSEY, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order approved by Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN, Executive Director, on December 22, 2023.

## **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 Petitioner and Petitioner was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
- 2. Petitioner waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 3. Petitioner received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, on August 4, 2005. Petitioner was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 27, 2005.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

10/2005 - 03/2008

LVN

Pinehurst Alzheimer Special Care Center Tyler, Texas Petitioner's nursing employment history continued:

03/2008 - 02/2014	LVN	East Texas Medical Center Tyler, Texas
2009 – 2010	LVN	Epic Home Health Tyler, Texas
2014 – Unknown	LVN	Briarcliff Nursing Home Tyler, Texas

- 5. On or about September 8, 2015, Petitioner was issued the sanction of Warning with Stipulations through an Order of the Board. A copy of the September 8, 2015, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 6. On or about July 21, 2016, Petitioner's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas was Revoked through an Order of the Board. A copy of the July 21, 2016, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 7. On or about August 16, 2023, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 8. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
  - A. Letter of support dated August 8, 2023, from Shanreka Bell.
  - B. Letter of support dated August 1, 2023, from Brian Stansell.
  - C. Letter of support dated August 15, 2023, from Dr. Corey C. Toney, Sr. Pastor.
  - D. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.
- 9. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
- 10. On or about July 27, 2018, Petitioner entered a plea of Guilty to FRAUD INTENT OBTAIN CS SCH I/II, a Second-Degree felony offense committed on December 28, 2015, in the 114<sup>th</sup> District Court, Smith County, Texas, under Case No. 114-0650-18. 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 five (5) years, and ordered to pay court costs. On or about July 27, 2023, Petitioner was discharged from probation.

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- 11. In response to Finding of Fact Number Ten (10), Petitioner states that she was placed on deferred adjudication for fraud. Petitioner has completed this and has been discharged from community supervision.
- 12. On or about November 9, 2023, Petitioner completed a forensic psychological evaluation performed by Paul Andrews, Ph.D., with a polygraph examination. According to Dr. Andrews, his assessment of Petitioner leads him to conclude that Petitioner meets criteria that are outlined for consideration in evaluating "good professional character." Petitioner appears to be a productive and stable citizen of society without criminal leanings or substance abuse problems at this time. It is Dr. Andrews' opinion that Petitioner is capable of performing responsibly and without impairment as a licensee but would offer these recommendations to maximize his successful re-entry into the profession. Completion of an ethics course and critical thinking course as Petitioner was asked to do in the Agreed Order in 2015. Some sessions with a therapist and/or licensed chemical dependency counselor to more fully explore how Petitioner became involved in substance abuse; although he has a history of at least five years of sobriety, Petitioner has never participated in substance abuse treatment nor therapy to come to an understanding of his risk factors and thinking errors that resulted in his substance abuse and criminal activity and how to recognize any early signs of danger of relapse. Discussions with a mentor and/or supervisor about what factors were instrumental in Petitioner's charting errors in 2014 which led to his involvement with the Board: not only is accurate charting essential for patient care, it is also self-protective as Petitioner re-enters the practice of nursing after his licensure trouble. Without knowing what area of nursing Petitioner wants to practice in, Dr. Andrews presumes there are continuing education updates that would be important for Petitioner's successful return to practice; in addition, Dr. Andrews is recommending Petitioner work closely with a mentor/supervisor for a few months as he reenters practice after more than seven years out of the profession.
- 13. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
- 14. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
- 15. 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, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 16. Relicensure 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.
- 17. The Executive Director's review of Petitioner's eligibility for relicensure has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

# **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. This reinstatement is made pursuant to Sections 301.453(c) and 301.467, Texas Occupations Code and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.26.
- 3. The Board may relicense an individual upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, if 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.
- 4. 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, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 5. 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).
- 6. 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. REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of ERIC R LINDSEY for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the State of Texas be **GRANTED** and Vocational Nurse License Number 200409 is/are hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

A. Until successfully completed, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to PETITIONER to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

- B. Until successfully completed, this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Until successfully completed, PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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 Reinstatement Agreed Order.

# III. REQUIREMENTS FOR VOCATIONAL NURSING REFRESHER COURSE, EXTENSIVE ORIENTATION, OR NURSING PROGRAM OF STUDY IN VOCATIONAL NURSING

Prior to practicing as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas, PETITIONER SHALL:

- A. Apply for a Six Month Temporary Permit to Complete Refresher Course, Extensive Orientation, or Nursing Program of Study in Vocational Nursing for the limited purpose of completing a refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in vocational nursing. The application for the Six Month Temporary Permit is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER SHALL NOT, in any way, attempt to use the temporary permit for any purpose other than completing the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in vocational nursing.
- B. Successfully complete a Board approved refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for vocational nursing. Petitioner MUST obtain Board approval of the nursing refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program, as applicable, prior to enrollment. In order for the course to be approved:
  - 1. The target audience shall include vocational nurses;

- 2. The course instructor must be a qualified registered nurse who meets or exceeds the Board's minimum criteria for eligibility as an instructor;
- 3. The course's content shall, at a minimum, include:
  - o Review of NPA, Rules, and Position Statements:
  - Determination of Individual Scope of Practice and role in patient safety;
  - o Review of the clinical problem solving process for the provision of individualized, goal directed nursing care to include: (i) Collecting data & performing focused nursing assessments; (ii) Participating in the planning of nursing care needs for clients; (iii) Participating in the development & modification of the comprehensive nursing care plan for assigned clients; (iv) Implementing appropriate aspects of care within the LVN's scope of practice; and (v) Assisting in the evaluation of the client's responses to nursing interventions and the identification of client needs;
  - o Pharmacology review;
  - o Medication administration:
  - o Documentation, quality assurance, and legal implication for nursing practice; and
  - o Documentation of current CPR certification prior to beginning precepted clinical learning experience; and
- 4. The course must contain no less than a total of 80 hours of clinical practice providing direct patient care precepted by a qualified registered or vocational nurse. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. Upon completion of the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for vocational nursing, PETITIONER SHALL return the temporary permit to the Board's office and PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to notify the Board, on a form provided by the Board, of Petitioner's successful completion of the refresher course, including the required 80 hours of precepted clinical practice.
- D. <u>Upon verification of successful completion of the conditions</u> as set out in Paragraphs A through C of this Section, PETITIONER SHALL submit a completed License Reactivation Form for Vocational Nurses, which is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER shall pay all re-registration fees and, subject to meeting all other requirements for licensure in Texas, shall be issued the applicable license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, which shall be subject to the terms of this Order.

# IV. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, PETITIONER SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) within one (1) year of relicensure, 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. <u>The course "Righting a Wrong,"</u> a 3.0 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), PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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 <u>www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</u>.

## V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, PETITIONER must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting, <u>for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month</u> for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) 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: PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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: PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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. Indirect Supervision: PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER, 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 PETITIONER is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- D. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the PETITIONER by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the PETITIONER 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 four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

## VI. THERAPY REPORTS

While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL participate in therapy with a professional counselor with credentials approved by the Board. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the PETITIONER'S progress

in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the PETITIONER'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. For the first three (3) month quarterly period PETITIONER works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, reports are to be submitted to the Board each and every month. If therapy is recommended by the counselor for an additional period of time, the reports shall then be submitted to the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period in which the PETITIONER is working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, for the remainder of the term of the Order, or until PETITIONER is dismissed from therapy, whichever is earlier.

## VII. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Reinstatement Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'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, PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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#### **PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION**

I understand this Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of my petition and disclosures. I further understand that subsequently discovered discrepancies in my petition and/or disclosures will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of my license(s).

I have reviewed this Order. I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to reinstating my license(s) to practice nursing in the state of Texas. 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(s) and/or nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 16 day of May, 2024.

ERIC & LINDSEY, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

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SEAL

Notary Public
State of Texas
ID # 12408018-1
omm. Expires 01-03-2026

Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the 16th day of May, 2024, by ERIC R LINDSEY, Vocational Nurse License Number 200409, and said Reinstatement Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 18th day of July, 2024.

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of

§ AGREED

Vocational Nurse License Number 200409

issued to ERIC R LINDSEY

§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of ERIC R LINDSEY, Vocational Nurse License Number 200409, 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. Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on June 7, 2015.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these 1. 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).
- Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order. 2.
- Respondent's license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current 3. status.
- Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Tyler Junior College, Tyler, 4. Texas, on August 4, 2005. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 27, 2005.
- Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes: 5.

10/2005 - 03/2008

LVN

Pinehurst Alzheimer Special Care Center

Tyler, Texas

executive Director of the Board

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

03/2008 - 02/2014	LVN	East Texas Medical Center Tyler, Texas
2009 - 2010	LVN	Epic Home Health Tyler, Texas
2014 - Present	LVN	Briarcliff Nursing Home
		Tyler, Texas

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately five (5) years and ten (10) months.
- 7. On or about January 1, 2014, through January 22, 2014, Respondent withdrew three (3) vials of Hydromorphone HCL 2mg from the Pyxis for patients, but failed to document, and/or completely and accurately document the administration of the medication in the patients' Medication Administration Records (MAR). Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 8. On or about January 1, 2014, through January 22, 2014, Respondent withdrew three (3) vials of Hydromorphone HCL 2mg from the Pyxis for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure regarding wastage of any of the unused portions of the medication. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and place them in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 9. On or about January 1, 2014, through January 22, 2014, while employed with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydromorphone HCL 2mg belonging to the facility or patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Additionally, Respondent was observed removing a sharps container and returning it with only half the container full. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the patient of the cost of the medication, and is a violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
- 10. On or about January 22, 2014, while employed with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent removed two (2) vials of Hydromorphone HCL 2mg from the Pyxis for Patien Account #00045600566 in excess frequency/dosage of the physician's orders. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that the administration of

- medication in excess frequency/dosage of the physician's order could result in the patient suffering adverse reactions. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 11. On or about January 23, 2014, while employed with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent withdrew one (1) Morphine Sulfate 5mg for Patient Account #00045643699, but failed to document and/or completely and accurately document the administration of the medication in the patient's Medication Administration Record (MAR). Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 12. On or about January 23, 2014, while employed with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent withdrew one (1) Morphine Sulfate 5mg for Patient Account #00045643699, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure regarding wastage of any of the unused portions of the medication. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and place them in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- 13. On or about January 23, 2014, while employed with East Texas Medical Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Morphine Sulfate 5mg belonging to the facility or patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Additionally, Respondent was observed removing a sharps container and returning it with only half the container full. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the patient of the cost of the medication, and is a violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).
- 14. Respondent was evaluated by Dr. Emily Fallis on March 2, 2015, who states Respondent denied substance abuse; however, the objective test results suggest he was defensive and may not have been honest in the interview about substance abuse. Respondent would benefit from a refresher course in professional standards and ethics given his failure to document and his limited concern about this failure. Respondent has an unknown risk of engaging in behaviors which the Board of Nursing has identified as constituting unprofessional conduct.
- 15. 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 controlled substances or chemical dependency.

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#### **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)(C),(1)(D)&(2) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(G),(8),(10)(C),(10)(E)&(11)(B).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 200409, heretofore issued to ERIC R LINDSEY.
- 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. Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state without first obtaining the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the nurse licensure compact party state where Respondent wishes to work.

#### 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 Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 et seq., and this Order.

# III. 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 courses 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 preapproved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at www.bon.texas.gov/compliance.

# IV. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse, providing direct patient care in a licensed 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 a nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment with the same employer for all three (3) months will not count towards completion of this requirement. 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. Indirect Supervision: 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 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.
- D. 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 nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse 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.

# V. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

A.

- While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol 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 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 requirements to
- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, tramadol, and 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 [1st 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 stipulation/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. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board. 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.

<u>Specimens shall be screened</u> for at least the following substances and their metabolites:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation 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.

# VI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

# 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 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this  $\frac{24}{2}$  day of  $\frac{704}{2015}$ 

ERIC R LINDSEY Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of day of

SEAL Sau

Notary Public in and for the State of 11. 9.16

LAURA K. MEADOWS
Notary PublicState of Texas
My Comm. Expires 11-8-2018

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing do	es
hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 24th day of July	
20_15_, by ERIC R LINDSEY, Vocational Nurse License Number 200409, and said Order	is
final.	
Fiffective this 8th day of September , 20 15	
	<b>—</b> •
Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN	
Executive Director on behalf	
of said Board	
OI BUILD TOURG	



#### **DOCKET NUMBER 507-16-2394**

IN THE MATTER OF § BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE PERMANENT CERTIFICATE § NUMBER 200409, § OF ISSUED TO § ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

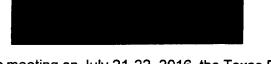
# **OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO:

ERIC R. LINDSEY

ALIDA MA MALDEZ

LAURA M. VALDEZ



At the regularly scheduled public meeting on July 21-22, 2016, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order No. 2, Order Dismissing Case, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On March 30, 2016, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on his behalf. During the hearing on March 30, 2016, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Final Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to his last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 2, Order Dismissing Case, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of Order No. 2, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board has determined that

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xecutive Director of the Board

the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin.Code §213.23(I), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Number 200409, previously issued to ERIC R. LINDSEY, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

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

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 21st day of July, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of	§	BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Vocational Nurse	§	
License Number 200409	§	
Issued to ERIC R. LINDSEY,	§	
Respondent	§	BOARD OF NURSING

#### FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, ERIC R. LINDSEY, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 200409, which is in Current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

#### CHARGE I.

On or about November 16, 2015, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 8, 2015. Respondent's noncompliance is the result of his failure to comply with section V(A) of the Order, dated September 8, 2015, which reads:

"(A). While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose..."

On November 16, 2015, Respondent submitted a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

#### CHARGE II.

On or about November 16, 2015, while employed with the University Health Science Center, Tylor, Toxas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Hydromorphone, in that he produced a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone. Possession of Hydromorphone, without a valid prescription, is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Hyrdomorphone by a Licensed Vocational Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make a rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential dauger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(1)(E),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

#### CHARGE III.

On or about November 24, 2015, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 8, 2015. Respondent's noncompliance is the result of his failure to comply with section V(A) of the Order, dated September 8, 2015, which reads:

"(A). While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose..."

On November 24, 2015, Respondent submitted a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

#### CHARGE IV.

On or about November 24, 2015, while employed with the University Health Science Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Hydromorphone, in that he produced a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone. Possession of Hydromorphone, without a valid prescription, is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Hydromorphone by a Licensed Vocational Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make a rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(1)(E),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

#### CHARGE V.

On or about December 14, 2015, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on September 8, 2015. Respondent's noncompliance is the result of his failure to comply with section V(A) of the Order, dated September 8, 2015, which reads:

"(A). While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose..."

On December 14, 2015, Respondent submitted a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

#### CHARGE VI.

On or about December 14, 2015, while employed with the University Health Science Center, Tyler, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Hydromorphone, in that he produced a specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Hydromorphone. Possession of Hydromorphone, without a valid prescription, is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Hydromorphone by a Licensed Vocational Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make a rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(1)(E),(4),(5),(10)(A)&(10)(D).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, www.bondexas.gov.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on adopted policies related to Substance Use Disorders and Other Alcohol and Drug Related Conduct, which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bondemas.gov.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 Tex. ADMIN. Code §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order dated September 8, 2015.

Filed this 9th day of February, 2016.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24036103

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24079751

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel State Bár No. 50511847

Jessica Lance, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24091434

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 00785533

Jacqueline A. Strashun

State Bar No. 19358600

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel State Bar No. 24086670

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460 Austin, Texas 78701 P: (512) 305-8657 F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated September 8, 2015

D(2015.11.18)