

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of §
 JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, §
 Registered Nurse License Number 739477 §
 §

ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, Registered Nurse License Number 739477, 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 delinquent status.
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Spencerian College Louisville, Kentucky, on October 1, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 19, 2007.
4. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/2007 – 09/2008

RN

Mainland Medical Center,
 Texas City, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

07/2008 – 04/2009	RN	Texas City Surgical Texas City, Texas
05/2009 – 01/2011	Unknown	
02/2011 – 07/2011	RN	Stonebridge Health and Rehabilitation Austin, Texas
08/2011 – 12/2011	Unknown	
01/2012 – 05/2013	RN	AMED Texas City, Texas
06/2013 – 12/2013	Unknown	
01/2014 – 01/2015	RN	Kindred Unknown location
02/2015 – 08/2015	RN	Private Duty Nursing Irving, Texas
09/2015 – 07/2016	Unknown	
08/2016 – 10/2016	RN	HealthSouth Mid-Cities Bedford, Texas
11/2016 – 11/2022	Unknown	
12/2022 – 02/2023	RN	Ascension St. Vincent Hospital Salem, Indiana
03/2023 – Present	Unknown	

5. On or about June 12, 2018, Respondent was issued the sanction of Warning with Stipulations through an Order of the Board. A copy of the June 12, 2018, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
6. On or about January 7, 2025, 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 March 22, 2023, St. Vicent Hospital – Salem, Indiana, where Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse, submitted a report to the Indiana Attorney General alleging Respondent's diversion of narcotic medications. Subsequently a criminal investigation was conducted by the Indiana Attorney General. As a result of the investigation, on or about November 17, 2023, Respondent was arrested in Washington County, Indiana and charged with FAILURE TO MAKE, KEEP OR FURNISH RECORDS, a Level 6 Felony offense and OBTAINING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE BY FRAUD OR DECEIT, a Level 6 Felony offense. On or about May 22, 2024, Respondent entered into a plea agreement in which she entered a plea of Guilty to the offenses under cause number 88D01-2311-F6-0000778 in the Washington Superior Court, Washington County, Indiana. As a result of the Guilty plea, on May 23, 2024, a judgement of Guilty was entered by the court and Respondent was sentenced to three-hundred sixty-five (365) days confinement in the County Jail. Respondent's sentence was suspended, and she was placed on Probation for a period of three-hundred sixty-five (365) days and was ordered to complete twenty-four (24) hours of Community Service.
7. On March 17, 2025, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's statement, dated February 27, 2025, 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 §217.12 (11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 739477, heretofore issued to JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, 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 739477 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 17th day of March, 2025

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director on behalf
of said Board

JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS
11 Campbell Court, Salem, IN 47167
RN LICENSE NUMBER 739477

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: Jennifer Lynette Sands

Date: Feb 27, 2025

RN LICENSE NUMBER 739477

The State of Texas

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS 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 27 day of Feb, 20 25.

SEAL

Maria L Colwell
Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana



MARIA L. COLWELL
Notary Public
Jefferson County
Commission Number NP0715259
Expiration Date 08-09-2026



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
Registered Nurse License Number 739477	§	
issued to JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, Registered Nurse License Number 739477, 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)(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 January 4, 2018.

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 Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree from Galen College of Nursing, Louisville, Kentucky, on October 01, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 19, 2007.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

March 2007-September 2008	RN	Mainland Medical Center Texas City, Texas
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

July 2008-April 2009	RN	Texas City Surgical Texas City, Texas
May 2009-January 2011	Unknown	
February 2011-July 2011	RN	Stonebridge Health and Rehabilitation Austin, Texas
August 2011-December 2011	Unknown	
January 2012-May 2013	RN	AMED Texas City, Texas
June 2013-December 2013	Unknown	
January 2014-January 2015	RN	Kindred Unknown location
February 2015-August 2015	RN	Private Duty Nursing Irving, Texas
September 2015-July 2016	Unknown	
August 2016-October 2016	RN	Healthsouth Mid-Cities Bedford, Texas
November 2016-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Healthsouth, Bedford, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) month.
7. On or about September 11, 2016 through October 4, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Healthsouth, Bedford, Texas, Respondent withdrew controlled substances in excess of physician's orders for the level of pain indicated by the patient, failed to timely administer controlled substances, and failed to completely and accurately document administration in the patients' medical records. Additionally, Respondent documented administration of controlled substances that the Medication Dispensing System showed were not administered. Respondent failed to follow the facility's policy and procedures for wastage of unused portions of controlled substances, and failed to take precautions to prevent misappropriation of controlled substances.

8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she received inadequate orientation regarding destruction and waste of medications, states the critical under staffing affected her accuracy and timeliness of documentation. Respondent states medications were removed from dispenser prior to administration time and locked in the medication cart because patients were in therapy on a different floor. In addition, her documentation of medication administration was confusing due to inability to scan missing and/or soiled arm bands.
9. On November 30, 2017, Respondent underwent an evaluation with Dr. Joyce M. Gayles, PhD, Clinical Psychologist. Dr. Gayles concluded that she does not have a chemical dependency impairment that would prevent her from practicing nursing with skill and safety. Dr. Gayles states that it appears most likely that the Respondent's mismanagement of medications was most likely due to a combination of carelessness and possibly insufficient training. Dr. Gayles recommends the Respondent be required to complete courses in medication management to ensure that she is more proficient in handling medication in a variety of nursing settings. Dr. Gayles further states that overall, Respondent can be expected to fulfill the duties and responsibility of a nurse based on the rules and guidelines of the Board and to act in a professional manner as a nurse.

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)&(3).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 739477, heretofore issued to JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS.
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" and Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

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. 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 courses and video programs will not be approved.
- B. A Board-approved course in medication administration with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours. Both the didactic and clinical components must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the six (6) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. Successful completion of this course requires RESPONDENT to successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course.
- C. 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.
- D. 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 a 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 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:** 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT 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. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol 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 request.
- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol 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 twelve (12) month stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month..

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. 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.

Specimens shall be screened for any or all of the following substances and/or their metabolites:

Amphetamine	Methamphetamine	MDMA
MDA	Alprazolam	Diazepam
Alpha-o-alprazolam	Alpha-Hydroxytriazolam	Clonazepam
Desmethyldiazepam	Lorazepam	Midazolam
Oxazepam	Temazepam	Amobarbital
Butabarbital	Butalbital	Pentobarbital
Phenobarbital	Secobarbital	Codeine
Hydrocodone	Hydromorphone	Methadone
Morphine	Opiates	Oxycodone
Oxymorphone	Propoxyphene	Cannabinoids
Cocaine	Phencyclidine	Ethanol
Heroin	Fentanyl	Tramadol
Meperidine	Carisoprodol	Butorphanol
Nalbuphine	Ketamine	Propofol

Upon enrollment in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, **RESPONDENT SHALL, on a daily basis, call or login online to the Board's designated drug and alcohol testing vendor to determine whether or not RESPONDENT has been selected to produce a specimen for screening that day** and SHALL, if selected, produce a specimen for screening that same day at an approved testing location and/or comply with any additional instructions from the vendor or Board staff. Further, **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.

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.

VII. 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, 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 Agreed 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 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 16 day of May, 2018.
Jennifer Lynette Sands
JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 20____.

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

Approved as to form ^{new} and substance.

Nancy Roper Willson
Nancy Roper Willson, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 16 day of May, 2018

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 16th day of May, 2018, by JENNIFER LYNETTE SANDS, Registered Nurse License Number 739477, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of June, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas", written in dark ink.

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