BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Registered Nurse

§ AGREED

License Number 255200

§

issued to DANIEL J. LOWE

§ ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DANIEL J. LOWE, Registered Nurse License Number 255200, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Article 4525(b)(3), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended and Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 16, 2006, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas on May 14, 1981. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, on September 8, 1981. On July 8, 2004, Respondent received recognition by the Board as a Family Nurse Practitioner and received Prescriptive Authorization on July 30, 2004.

- 5. Respondent's complete nursing employment history is unknown.
- 6. On or about October 16, 1995, Respondent was issued the sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. A copy of the October 16, 1995, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
- 7. On or about June 19, 1996, Respondent was convicted of the offense of Driving While Intoxicated, Class B Misdemeanor, in the County Court at Law #1, Waxahachie County, Texas, Cause # 9610641. Respondent was sentenced to sixty days (60) in the Waxahachie County Jail with the imposition of sentence suspended, and placed on two years (2) probation, ordered to pay a fine in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), and court costs in the amount of two hundred five dollars (\$205.00).
- 8. On or about April 28, 2005, Respondent was convicted of the offense of Driving While Intoxicated, Class A Misdemeanor, in the County Court at Law #1, Waxahachie County, Texas, Cause # 0413063CR. Respondent was sentenced to three hundred sixty-five days (365) in the Waxahachie County Jail with the imposition of sentence suspended, and placed on two years (2) community supervision, ordered to pay a fine in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), and court costs in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 9. On or about December 14, 2005, Respondent submitted a renewal application to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas in which he provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that he answered "No" to the following question:
 - "Have you ever been convicted, adjudicated guilty by a court, plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests (excluding minor traffic violations) since your last renewal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUIs, DWIs, and PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes".)"
- 10. 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 alcohol

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 violations of Article 4525(b)(3), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., Section 301.452(b)(1),(2),(3)& (10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 255200, heretofore issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that Registered Nurse License Number 255200, previously issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, to practice professional nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of two (2) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate privilege, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this order the Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to DANIEL J. LOWE, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days of the date of this Order for appropriate notation.
- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a preapproved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. Board-approved courses may be found on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of

nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. Board approved courses may be found on the Board's website, www.bne.state.tx.us (under BNE events).

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Board of Nurse Examiners in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT

SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in professional nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

- (7) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- (8) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered 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.
- (9) 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

professional nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for two (2) years of employment as a professional nurse.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of 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 an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(11) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the second three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines Barbiturates Meperidine Methadone Benzodiazepines

Cannabinoids

Cocaine

Ethanol

tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)

Methaqualone

Opiates

Phencyclidine

Propoxyphene

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.

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 probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board. Failure to report for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result and may result in further disciplinary action by this Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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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 violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to a copy will be judicial to the funderstand 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 to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 10 day of 9ch - , 20 00 DANIELS LOWE, Respondent

nis 26 day of Oct , 2006.

Notary Public in and for the State of Jexas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>26th</u> day of <u>October</u>, <u>2006</u>, by DANIEL J. LOWE, Registered Nurse License Number 255200, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of November, 2006

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

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Permanent Certificate Number 255200 issued to DANIEL J. LOWE

§ AMENDED § AGREED ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DANIEL J. LOWE, license number 255200, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Article 4525(b)(9), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice, hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order offered by Louise Waddill, Executive Director, PhD, RN, subject to ratification by the Board.

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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice, hearing, and consented to the entry of this order.
- Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing in May 1981 from Dallas Baptist College, Dallas, Texas.
- On or about July 18, 1994, while employed with Doctor's Hospital, Dallas, Texas, Respondent falsely documented Vital Signs for patient record number 000198305 who had been admitted into the Emergency Room for "injury to the little finger". Respondent did not take this patient's vital signs.
- 6. On or about July 19, 1994, while employed with the aforementioned facility, Respondent falsely documented Vital Signs for patient record number 000162130 who had been admitted into the Emergency Room for an "uncomfortable-pervious arm injury." Respondent did not take this patient's vital signs.

- 7. Vital signs are literally the "signs of life." They include the measurement of body temperature, pulse and respiratory rates, and blood pressure. Vital signs are used as indicators of health or illness of the patient. Vital signs are readily measurable and are compared to norms of physiological functions. Vital signs are critical in the diagnosis of a patient's change in condition.
- 8. Respondent's false documentation in Findings of Fact 5 and 6 was likely to deceive other healthcare personnel caring for these patients in that care may have been provided based on inaccurate documentation of the patient's condition.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Article 4525, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law
- The evidence received was sufficient to prove violation(s) of Article 4525(b)(9), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.13(5).
- The activities of the Respondent constituted sufficient cause pursuant to Article 4525(b), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., to take disciplinary action against license number 255200, heretofore issued to DANIEL J. LOWE.

AGREED SANCTIONS

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a Reprimand, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Art. 4513 et. seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et. seq. and this order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following stipulations for one year:

- (1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-size license issued to DANIEL J.

 LOWE, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days of the date of this order for appropriate notation.
- (2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this order, successfully complete a course in Nursing Jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home Study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience must include registered nurses. It must be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content should tach lie the Nursing Practice Act, Standards of Practice, and documentation of care. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the office of the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure.

- (3) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in professional nursing of this order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a copy of this order to each present employer within five (5) days of notification of this order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all potential employers in professional nursing of this order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a copy of this order to each potential employer prior to employment.
- (4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in professional nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of notification of this order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each potential employer to submit the Notification of Employment form to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a professional nurse.
- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT's capability to practice professional mursing. These reports shall be completed by the registered murse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for one (1) year of employment as a professional murse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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. By my signature on this order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Agreed Sanctions, and any stipulation(s) of this order to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I consent to the issuance of the Agreed Sanctions. I waive judicial review of this order. I understand that this order is subject to ratification by the Board. When the order is ratified, the terms of this order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me.

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	Signed this 10 day of 3 19	<u>L</u> .
	DANIEL J. LOWE	
Sworn to and subscribed before	ore me this 3+ol day of Dolover, 1995	
SEAL	Sharon Parker	
	Notary Public in and for the State of	. *
SHARON PARKER AY COMMISSION EXPIRES July 13, 1999	~ -4	
	Signed this 310 day of Coller 19	15

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 3rd day of October, 1995, by DANIEL J. LOWE, license number 255200, and said order is final.

Effective this 16th day of October, 1995.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, CPNP

Interim Executive Director