



Texas Board of Nursing

1801 Congress Ave, Ste. 10-200, Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 www.bon.texas.gov
Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director

June 17, 2025

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0019 3503 79
Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Bridget Norris Kirk
27 Mockingbird Xing
Durant, OK 74701

Dear Ms. Kirk:

Your Petition for Licensure Reinstatement and the supporting information related to your potential ineligibility for relicensure was considered by the Executive Director.

Pursuant to the Occupations Code §§301.257, 301.452, and 301.453, you have been found to be ineligible for reinstatement of licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas based upon the grounds discussed below. **This is a final determination of licensure reinstatement denial.**

Our records indicate the following:

You did not provide one (1) consecutive year of documented sobriety.

On or about August 14, 2024, petition for reinstatement included the following evidence of sobriety:

- Documentation of therapy from Karla Ayers and Betterhelp from January through August 2024, which shows seven (7) months of therapy. The documentation submitted did not provide details of the issues mentioned in your April 27, 2023, forensic evaluation with Dr. Pugliese.

On or about April 27, 2023, you completed a forensic psychological evaluation, performed by Frank A. Pugliese, Ph.D. According to Dr. Pugliese, the assessment reflected an individual who tends to be impulsive and reactive and has difficulty accepting rules, regulations, and authority. Based on these observations and the results of the polygraph examination, which reflected deception that was indicated, it is Dr. Pugliese's opinion there is a strong probability you would not be able to consistently behave in accordance with the requirements of Board rules, as well as the minimum nursing standards. In addition, there is a strong probability you would not be able to consistently avoid behavior identified by the Board as constituting unprofessional conduct. Dr. Pugliese recommends you obtain counseling to develop a greater degree of insight into your behavior, so you are less likely to behave in a self-defeating manner in the future.

You are subject to denial of licensure for this conduct pursuant to the following subsections of the Occupations Code §301.452(b):

Kathleen Shipp, MSN, APRN, FNP
Lubbock, *President*

Allison Porter-Edwards, DrPH, MS, RN, CNE, CDDN, FAAN
Bellaire, *Vice-President*



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.

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- §301.452(b)(12): "lack of fitness to practice because of a mental or physical health condition that could result in injury to a patient or the public;"

The Board also requires petitioners to demonstrate their ability to consistently conform to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice; to possess good professional character; and to pose no threat to the health and safety of patients and the public. The Board has adopted a rule, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27, that sets forth the factors and disciplinary and eligibility policies and guidelines that must be used in evaluating good professional character in eligibility and disciplinary matters. Based upon the factors specified in §213.27, you have failed to provide sufficient evidence of good professional character required by §213.27.

The Board has also adopted a rule, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.29(d)(2), regarding "Substance Use Disorders and Abuse/Misuse of Alcohol or Drugs" related to fitness to practice, which states: "Individuals who have not been diagnosed, treated, or hospitalized for a substance use disorder, but have nonetheless exhibited behaviors raising concerns about the individual's ability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety due to the possession, misuse, or abuse of alcohol or drugs, prescribed or otherwise, including related criminal conduct, may be required to demonstrate sobriety and abstinence from drugs and alcohol for a minimum of twelve consecutive months, through verifiable and reliable evidence, in order to obtain or retain licensure. Verifiable and reliable evidence of sobriety and abstinence from drugs and alcohol may include evidence of the completion of inpatient, outpatient, or aftercare treatment, random drug screens, individual or group therapy, and/or support group attendance." You have failed to provide proof of sobriety in accordance with the requirements of 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.29(d)(2).

Texas Occupations Code Chapter 301, as well as the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27; §213.29-§213.33, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies are hereby incorporated by reference herein and may be located on the Board's website at www.bon.texas.gov.

You will not be allowed to petition for reinstatement until at least one (1) year from the date of this denial and until you have satisfied any conditions outlined in your order and any requirements required by law at the time of your application.

Due to this denial, you have the right to a public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge with the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Should you decide to appeal the decision to deny you licensure, please submit a written request for a public hearing, to the attention of Office of General Counsel, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200, Austin, Texas, 78701. Your written request to appeal this decision must be received in our office within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter. Further, if this office receives information regarding additional criminal conduct or behavior that has not been previously disclosed to or discovered by this office, please be advised that evidence of such additional criminal conduct or behavior may be used against you during the public hearing in this matter to show that you lack the good professional character and other requirements for licensure.

Further, should the decision to deny your licensure be upheld by the State Office of Administrative Hearings, you will be entitled to judicial review by filing an action in the district court of Travis County, Texas. A petition for such an action must be filed not later than the 30th day after the date the licensing authority's decision is final and appealable.

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If you have any questions, please contact Enforcement at (512) 305-6838.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director

KKB/278

J5(2025.04.04)