

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number AP133876	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 826001	§	
issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY	§	

## NUNC PRO TUNC ORDER OF THE BOARD

An agreed order was entered for BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY on June 10, 2025. The Order was ratified with the erroneous inclusion of stipulations that were not contemplated by the parties. Upon notice and hearing, administrative agencies, like the Courts, have the power to enter nunc pro tunc orders where it can be seen by reference to a record that what was intended to be entered, but was omitted by inadvertence or mistake, can be corrected upon satisfactory proof of its rendition provided that no intervening rights will be prejudiced. *Railroad Comm'n v. McClain*, 356 S.W.2d 330, 334 (Tex. App.—Austin 1962, no writ) (citing *Frankfort Ky. Nat. Gas Co. v. City of Frankfort*, 276 Ky. 199, 123 S.W.2d 270, 272).

The Executive Director, as agent of the Texas Board of Nursing, after review and due consideration of the record and the facts therein submits and enters the corrected Agreed order. Respondent received due process regarding their license and is aware of and has requested these corrections; therefore, their rights have not been prejudiced.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the corrected Agreed Order is hereby approved and entered on the dates set forth below.

Order effective June 10, 2025.

Entered this 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2025.

BY: *Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN*

---

KRISTIN K. BENTON, DNP, RN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number AP133876	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 826001	§	
issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(10),(12)&(14), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order approved by Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN, Executive Director, on April 23, 2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number 23042 in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, on May 1, 2010. Respondent completed a Nurse Anesthetist Program from Georgetown University, Washington, District Of Columbia, on December 9, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 12, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered

nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist on April 24, 2017. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist with Prescription Authorization on April 24, 2017.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

9/2012 – 4/2018	Unknown	Facility Name City, State
4/2018 – Present	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	Deep Sleep CRNA Allen, Texas
9/2018 – Present	Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	Pathfinders Anesthesia & Infusion Center Frisco, Texas

6. On or about October 2, 2018, Respondent was required to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) through an Order of the Board. A copy of the October 2, 2018, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
7. On or about July 22, 2021, Respondent's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas were Suspended through an Order of the Board. On or about November 26, 2024, Respondent successfully completed the terms of the Order. A copy of the July 22, 2021, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
8. On or about March 20, 2024, while employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and owner of Deep Sleep CRNA, Allen, Texas, and contracted with Pathfinders Anesthesia, Frisco, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that he overdosed on Fentanyl which was apparent by Narcan being administered by first responders in reviving him. Subsequently, Respondent admitted to taking 1500 mcg of IV Fentanyl 2x with the intention of getting high. Additionally, a search warrant was served by the Allen Police Department to search his residence and truck. During the search the following items were found, two (2) 5ml vials of Ketamine, two (2) 2ml vials of Midazolam, one (1) 1ml vial of Lorazepam, one (1) 1ml vial Promethazine, and thirty-one (31) 1ml vials of Promethazine found under the center console of his truck along with one (1) 1ml vial of Lorazepam. Respondent's condition could have affected his ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions and could have affected his ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgements, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing patients in potential danger.
9. On or about March 20, 2024, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on July 22, 2021. Noncompliance is the result of his failure to abstain from the consumption of controlled substances. On or about March 20, 2024, Respondent was found unresponsive at his residence due to a Fentanyl overdose

and was administered Narcan with immediate improvement of his mentation. Respondent was transported by EMS to Texas Health Presbyterian, Allen, Texas. Subsequently, Respondent admitted to taking 1500 mcg of IV Fentanyl 2x with the intention of getting high. Section VIII, Stipulation A of the Agreed Order dated July 22, 2021, states, in pertinent part:

“(A) While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances.”

10. On or about March 6, 2025, Respondent underwent a Chemical Dependency Evaluation with Amber Foreman, Psy.D., wherein Dr. Foreman confirms Respondent has an opioid use disorder moderate in remission. Dr. Foreman recommends Respondent remain in individual treatment, attend Narcotic Anonymous, meet with his sponsor, and continue his medication regime under the supervision of his doctor. Additionally, Dr. Foreman recommends Respondent refrain from working with opioids and continue to submit to random UA screenings.

11. Formal Charges were filed on January 22, 2025.

#### 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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5),(10)(A) &(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1),(10),(12) &(14), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, heretofore issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY.
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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, previously issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **STAYED** and RESPONDENT is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of three (3) years **AND** until RESPONDENT fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Until successfully completed, RESPONDENT may not practice nursing in the State of Texas except in accordance with the terms of this Order.
- D. As a result of this Order, RESPONDENT'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

### **II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed Order.

### **III. UNDERSTANDING BOARD ORDERS**

Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT must successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders", which can be accessed on the Board's website from the "Discipline & Complaints" drop-down menu or directly at: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp>. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

#### IV. **REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)**

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics** that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft, and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. Home study and video programs will not be approved.
- B. **The course "Righting a Wrong,"** a 3.0 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).
- C. **The course "Upholding the Standard: Professional Accountability in Nursing,"** a 4.5 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course

prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at [www.bon.texas.gov/compliance](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

**V. MONITORING FEE**

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monitoring fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order.

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

**VI. APRN EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered 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 twelve (12) quarterly periods [three (3) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until twelve (12) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy

of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.

- B. **Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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.
- C. **No Night or Rotating Shifts, Overtime, or On-Call:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which RESPONDENT is regularly assigned.
- D. **Monitored Practice:** RESPONDENT'S advanced practice registered nursing must be monitored by a Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT MUST, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order or within (10) days of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse, provide to the Board a list of three (3) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and/or three (3) Physicians from which the Board shall select an approved monitor. For each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician, the list must include name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of RESPONDENT'S receipt of the name of the approved monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- E. **Nursing Performance Reports:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises/monitors the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to



the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for twelve (12) quarters [three (3) years] of employment as a nurse.

## **VII. 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 the 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 all 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 [1<sup>st</sup> 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 probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE initially conducted through urinalysis, and subsequent testing or required re-tests, when applicable, may be obtained through blood, hair/nail, and/or breathalyzer, as directed by the Board's drug and alcohol testing program. 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.

- C. **While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week,** one of which must be for substance abuse

and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) month quarterly period. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

#### **VIII. THERAPY REPORTS**

**While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a professional counselor with credentials approved by the Board.** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. For the first three (3) month quarterly period RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT is working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, for the remainder of the term of the Order, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy, whichever is earlier.

#### **IX. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the RESPONDENT'S conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Agreed Order, result in subsequent judicial action, including a deferred disposition, RESPONDENT may be subject to further disciplinary action, up to, and including, revocation of RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

#### **X. FURTHER COMPLAINTS**

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against RESPONDENT'S license(s), the probationary period shall not

expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

**XI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)**

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

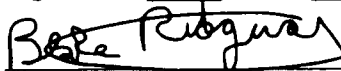
BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

**RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing and a copy of this Order will be mailed to me once the Order becomes effective. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including possible revocation of my license(s) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 22 day of July, 2025.



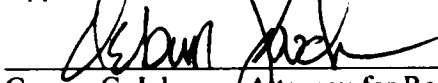
BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

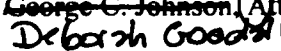
SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and substance.



~~George G. Johnson~~, Attorney for Respondent



Signed this 22nd day of July, 2025.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025, by BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

*Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN*

---

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



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 Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED
Nurse License Number AP133876	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 826001	§	
issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, 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)(9)&(10), 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 August 10, 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. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, on May 1, 2010, and received a Masters Degree in Nursing from Georgetown University, Washington, DC, on December 9, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice nursing in the State of Texas on September 12, 2012, and was licensed to

practice advanced practice nursing in the role of Nurse Anesthetist with prescription authorization on April 24, 2017.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown
6. On or about June 15, 2018, Respondent submitted a timely license renewal form to the Texas Board of Nursing and answered "Yes" to the following question:

Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?

Respondent currently has an Agreed Order For Peer Assistance Program from the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

7. On or about June 15, 2018, Respondent submitted a timely license renewal form to the Texas Board of Nursing and answered "Yes" to the following question:

In the Past 5 years, have you been addicted to or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?

Respondent was admitted to Grapevine Valley Hope Drug and Alcohol Treatment Center on February 25, 2018 and discharged on March 23, 2018, after completing the program.

8. On or about August 8, 2018, Respondent's license to practice Advanced Practice Professional Nursing and Professional Nursing in the State of Oklahoma was issued an Agreed Order for entry into Peer Assistance Program by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A copy of the Stipulation, Settlement and Order dated August 8, 2018, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) and Seven (7), Respondent states he would like to transfer from the Oklahoma Peer Assistance Program to the Texas Peer Assistance Program.
10. Respondent's conduct as described in the preceding Finding(s) of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
11. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

#### 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 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, heretofore issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

### **TERMS OF ORDER**

#### **I. PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

- A. Within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL apply to TPAPN;
- B. Within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement and complete the enrollment process, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee payable to TPAPN in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
- C. Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing;
- D. RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas current; and

- E. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

## II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND APPLICABILITY

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.

- 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.

## 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 entry of this Order:

**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.

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board

approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at [www.bon.texas.gov/compliance](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

**IV. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE**

SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in 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.

**V. 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.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order and all conditions of said Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, and a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

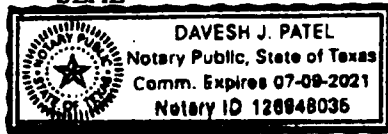
Signed this 20 day of September, 2018.

BL 1

BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20 day of SEPTEMBER, 2018.

SEAL



[Signature]  
Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 20th day of September , 2018, by BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, and said Order is final.

Effective this 2nd day of October, 2018 .



---

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

---

**BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING**

**IN THE MATTER OF BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, R.N., A.P.R.N.-C.R.N.A.  
LICENSE NO. R0100088 SINGLE-STATE LICENSE**

**AGREED ORDER FOR ENTRY INTO  
PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

On this day, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing ("Board"), considered the matter of Blake Randall Ridgway, R.N., A.P.R.N.-C.R.N.A., hereafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received and investigated by Starla Griffith, a Nurse Investigator and discussed with Respondent's counsel, Libby Scott, Esq., on March 12, 2018, indicates that Respondent requests to voluntarily enter the Peer Assistance Program of the Board.

Respondent has been informed of his right to an attorney and has reviewed this Agreed Order with his counsel.

**AGREED FACT FINDINGS**

1. Respondent is licensed with a single-state license to practice as a registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist with authority to select, order, obtain and administer drugs in the State of Oklahoma and is the holder of License No. R0100088 issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.

2. On May 23, 2017, Respondent entered into a Stipulations, Settlement and Order of the Board for Respondent's single-state license to practice registered nursing to remain in effect and granted the Application for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure as a advanced practice registered nurse – certified registered nurse anesthetist and Application for CRNA Authority to Select, Order, Obtain and Administer Drugs with certain conditions

---

specified in the Order. Said Stipulations, Settlement and Order is attached hereto as pages 8-33 and made a part hereof.

3. On or about numerous dates in February, 2018 the Respondent, while employed by Durant Anesthesia Associates and working as a registered nurse advance practice registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist ("APRN-CRNA") with authority to select, order, obtain and administer drugs, at Alliance Health Durant in Durant, Oklahoma ("Hospital"), was observed on Hospital video surveillance removing multiple syringes of medications from the Acudose<sup>1</sup> locked lid drawer and replacing the removed syringes with syringes from the Respondent's jacket pockets and Respondent's personal shoulder bag. Additionally, the video surveillance showed the Respondent closely inspecting the plunger ends of the syringes removed from the Acudose by the Respondent. Upon inspection of the syringes in the Acudose, the Pharmacy Director noted a pen mark on the top corner of the syringe barrel. Further investigation by the Pharmacy Director provided multiple syringes in other anesthesia provider's locked narcotic boxes with the same pen markings. A total of 41 syringes of Hydromorphone, a Schedule II Controlled Dangerous Substances ("CDS") medication were found with pen markings and one 250 mcg/5ml vial of Fentanyl, a Schedule II CDS medication was found with the protective lid removed.

4. Additionally, a review of the Respondent's CDS transactions in the Acudose provided multiple "transaction cancellations" for "Hydromorphone 1 mg/ml syringes". Respondent had 115 "transaction cancellations" for Hydromorphone from January 1, 2018 to February 21, 2018 from five (5) separate Acudose machines.

---

<sup>1</sup>Acudose is an automated medication dispensing machine that supports decentralized medication management.

---

5. On or about February 16, 2018 the Respondent's clinical privileges and Allied Health Professional membership were terminated by the Hospital.

6. Respondent admits to having a substance use disorder and has requested a referral to the Peer Assistance Program.

7. No formal Complaint has been filed charging Respondent with a violation(s) of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and/or Rules as of the date of this Agreed Order. Respondent understands that Respondent has a right to require that a formal Complaint be filed and the right to a formal hearing before the Board at which time Respondent could confront the witnesses against Respondent, cross-examine those witnesses and present evidence on Respondent's own behalf. Respondent understands that by signing this Agreed Order Respondent is giving up those rights.

8. Respondent is entering into this Agreed Order for the purpose of avoiding further administrative action with respect to this matter.

9. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreed Order will in no way preclude additional proceedings by the Board against Respondent for acts or omissions not made a part of this Agreed Order.

10. Respondent expressly waives all further procedural steps, and expressly waives all rights to seek judicial review of or to otherwise challenge or contest the validity of this Agreed Order.

11. This Agreed Order constitutes formal disciplinary action.

#### AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW



---

1. The Board of Nursing has jurisdiction of this matter and authority to discipline Respondent through 59 O.S. §§567.2., 567.8 and OAC 485:10-11.

2. The Executive Director has the authority to enter into this Agreed Order on behalf of the Board of Nursing as authorized by Oklahoma Statutes, Title 59, Section 567.4.F.2 and 3.

3. Respondent's conduct violates the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S. §§567.1, *et seq.*, specifically, §§567.8.A1.b.d.g.2.3.B.3.4.7.8.9. and Board Rules, OAC §§485:10-11-1.(a)(b)(2)(3)(C)(D)(H)(T)(U)(4)(C)(D) 485:10-18-5(c).

#### AGREED ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Respondent is referred to the Peer Assistance Program of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing on the following terms and conditions:

1. Respondent's single-state licenses to practice as a registered nurse and advanced practice registered nurse-certified registered nurse anesthetist with authority to select, order, obtain and administer drugs is hereby temporarily suspended as of the date of this Agreed Order, which temporary suspension shall be set aside provided Respondent provides documentation satisfactory to the Board of Respondent's acceptance into the Peer Assistance Program within sixty (60) days of receipt of this Agreed Order.

2. If Respondent is not accepted into the Peer Assistance Program ("Program") within sixty (60) days of receipt of this Agreed Order, or having been accepted is terminated/defaulted from the Program for any reason other than successful completion of Respondent's contract(s) and treatment plan, Respondent's license is hereby revoked for a

period of two (2) years from the date of the non-acceptance in the Program or the date of

---

the termination/default from the Program.

3. Respondent shall submit to the Board the applicable licensure modification fee and the Respondent's license, if available, within thirty (30) days from receipt of this Order.

4. Respondent shall comply in all respects with the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S. Sections 567.1, et seq., the Rules, OAC Title 485 Chapters 1 and 10 and Guidelines relating to nursing education, licensure and practice and this Agreed Order.

5. Prior to the Respondent's successful completion of this Agreed Order, any violations of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act by the Respondent, except as set forth herein, may require Respondent's appearance before the Board to Show Cause why Respondent's license should not be revoked or other such action taken as the Board deems necessary and proper. This does not preclude any action(s) the Peer Assistance Program may take against the Respondent's license.

6. In the event Respondent's license is revoked as provided herein, any application to reinstate Respondent's license shall not be considered by the Board until Respondent presents evidence, satisfactory to the Board, of compliance with the Board's Guidelines for Individuals Requesting Reinstatement After Suspension, Surrender or Revocation for Misappropriation or Misuse of Drugs/Alcohol, in effect at the time of this Order. Respondent must also submit evidence of the continued qualifications for practice as set forth in the applicable Statutes and Rules of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing in effect at the time of Respondent's reinstatement.

7. In the event Respondent's license is revoked as provided herein,

---

Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty payable to the Oklahoma Board of Nursing in the full amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00). Partial payments are not accepted. The administrative penalty shall be paid only by certified check, money order or cash. Any application to reinstate Respondent's license after revocation will not be considered until the administrative penalty is paid in full.

8. Upon reinstatement after revocation as provided herein, Respondent's license will be immediately placed in temporary suspension pending readmission to the Peer Assistance Program. Respondent shall provide documentation, satisfactory to the Board, of Respondent's acceptance into the Peer Assistance Program within sixty (60) days of reinstatement.

9. In the event the Certified Mail delivery of Respondent's Agreed Order is unsuccessful a process server will be hired to obtain service of the Agreed Order. If it is necessary to serve the Respondent by a process server, the Respondent agrees to reimburse the Board for the actual cost of the process server. The Respondent shall pay to the Board the actual cost of the process service prior to reinstatement. The process service fee shall be paid only by certified check, money order or cash to the Board.

10. The parties agree that both (all) parties have participated in the drafting of this Agreed Order and that no presumption or construction against any party as the drafter of this Agreed Order, shall apply or be applied in the event of a claim of ambiguity of the document or a provision thereof.

11. This Agreed Order shall become final after anticompetitive review and a determination by the Oklahoma Attorney General, 74 O.S. §18b(A)(5), that this Agreed Order

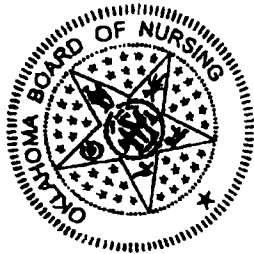
is in compliance with the Board's authority and mission to protect the public health, safety and welfare and Respondent's receipt of the fully executed Agreed Order.

12. This Agreed Order shall not be effective until the Respondent has accepted service of the fully executed Agreed Order.

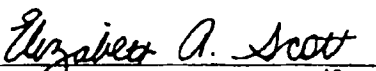
13. Upon successful completion by Respondent of Respondent's Contract and Amended Contract(s) with the Peer Assistance Program, no further Order of the Board shall be deemed necessary.


14. This Agreed Order constitutes disciplinary action by the Board and may be used in any subsequent hearings by the Board. In the event other misconduct is reported to the Board, this Agreed Order may be used as evidence against Respondent to establish a pattern of behavior and for the purpose of proving additional acts of misconduct.

THEREFORE, ALL THESE THINGS CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing, hereby issues this Agreed Order for Entry into Peer Assistance Program.



  
Respondent

  
Attorney for Respondent OBA# 12470

  
Kim Glazier, RN, M.Ed.  
Executive Director, Oklahoma Board of Nursing,  
On behalf of the Board.

Ordered this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018.

SG:tj  
H6; H1; 16



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 ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number AP133876 with Prescription	§	
Authorization Number 23042	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 826001	§	
issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY		

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 with Prescription Authorization Number 23042, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on March 3, 2021.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number 23042 in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Southwestern College in Kansas, Winfield, Kansas, on May 1, 2010. Respondent completed a Nurse Anesthetist Program from Georgetown University, Washington, District of Columbia, on December 9, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on

September 12, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist on April 24, 2017. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Anesthetist with Prescription Authorization on April 24, 2017.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

9/2012 – 5/2019	Unknown	
6/2019 – 11/2020	CRNA	Pathfinders Anesthesia & Infusion Center Frisco, Texas
12/2020 – Present	Unknown	

6. On or about October 2, 2018, Respondent was required to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) through an Order of the Board. A copy of the October 2, 2018, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
7. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist with Pathfinders Anesthesia & Infusion Center, Frisco, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and four (4) months.
8. On or about October 26, 2020, Respondent became noncompliant with the Agreed Order issued to him by the Texas Board of Nursing on October 2, 2018. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with all requirements of the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN) participation agreement, in that he failed to abstain from the consumption of controlled substances. Respondent produced a urine specimen for a random drug screen that resulted positive for Norfentanyl 0.5 ng/ml.

Section I, Stipulation D of the Agreed Order for Peer Assistance Program dated October 2, 2018, states: "RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term..."

On or about November 11, 2020, Respondent's case was referred to the Board for investigation.

9. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states he has continued to participate in TPAPN and has been drug tested randomly. Respondent states he has been sober since November 4, 2020.

### 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 (9)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 with Prescription Authorization Number 23042, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, heretofore issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY.
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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 with Prescription Authorization Number 23042, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, previously issued to BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **ENFORCED** until RESPONDENT:

- A. Completes an appropriate treatment program approved by the Board;
- B. Provides documentation of successful completion; and
- C. Obtains twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety, which may be demonstrated by monthly urine drug screens consistent with the "DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS" of this Order.

**Any relapse prior to the completion of the required twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in revocation or, at a minimum, an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, upon verification of successful completion of the above requirements, the Suspension will be **STAYED**, and RESPONDENT will be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of three (3) years **AND** until RESPONDENT fulfills the additional requirements of this Order.

- D. RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.
- E. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- F. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- G. As a result of this Order, RESPONDENT'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

## **II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed Order.

## **III. SUPERSEDING ORDER**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction and conditions of this Agreed Order SHALL supersede all previous stipulations required by any Order entered by the Texas Board of Nursing.



#### IV. 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.

#### V. 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 suspension being stayed, unless otherwise specifically indicated:

- A. A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft, and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. Home study and video programs will not be approved.
- B. The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

**VI. MONETARY FINE**

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within forty-five (45) days of the suspension being stayed. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

**VII. APRN EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered 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 twelve (12) quarterly periods [three (3) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until twelve (12) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.

- B. Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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.
- C. No Night or Rotating Shifts, Overtime, or On-Call:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which RESPONDENT is regularly assigned.
- D. No Critical Care:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.
- E. No Administration of Controlled Medications:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dolgan, Ultram, Propofol, or other synthetic opiates.
- F. Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician. Direct supervision requires another Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. If being supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, the supervising APRN must be in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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.
- G. Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who is on the premises. The supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician shall have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the RESPONDENT is currently working. If being supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, the supervising APRN must be in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT. 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.

- H. **Nursing Performance Evaluations:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for twelve (12) quarters [three (3) years] of employment as a nurse.

#### **VIII. 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 the 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 all 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 [1<sup>st</sup> 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 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. 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.

- C. **While under the terms of this Order,** RESPONDENT SHALL **attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week,** one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) month quarterly period. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

#### **IX. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the RESPONDENT'S conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Agreed Order, result in subsequent judicial action, including a deferred disposition, RESPONDENT may be subject to further disciplinary action, up to, and including, revocation of RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

#### **X. FURTHER COMPLAINTS**

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against RESPONDENT'S license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

**XI. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)**

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

**RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing and a copy of this Order will be mailed to me once the Order becomes effective. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including possible revocation of my license(s) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY  
BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and substance.

Deborah Goodall  
Deborah Goodall, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021, by BLAKE RANDALL RIDGWAY, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP133876 with Prescription Authorization Number 23042, and Registered Nurse License Number 826001, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine A. Thomas".

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