

#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 742199

issued to KRISTIN M. KEZAR

AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of KRISTIN M. KEZAR, Registered Nurse License Number 742199, 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),(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 September 4, 2024.

#### 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 inactive status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Baylor University, Dallas, Texas, on May 12, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 14, 2007.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

06/2007 - 02/2010

RN

Methodist Dallas Medical Center Dallas, Texas

# Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

| 03/2010 - 05/2012 | RN – Transplant<br>Coordinator   | Methodist Dallas Medical Center<br>Dallas, Texas  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 06/2012           | Unknown                          |   |
| 07/2012 - 12/2012 | RN                               | Parkland Memorial Hospital<br>Dallas, Texas   |
| 01/2013 - 03/2014 | RN                               | Doctors Hospital<br>Dallas, Texas   |
| 11/2013 – 03/2015 | RN – Transplant<br>Coordinator   | The Liver Institute – Methodist Dallas<br>Medical Center<br>Dallas, Texas                     |
| 04/2015 - 05/2015 | Unknown                          |   |
| 06/2015 - 05/2017 | RN                               | Family ER + Urgent Care<br>Irving, Texas  |
| 06/2017 – 11/2017 | RN                               | The Colony ER Hospital The Colony, Texas  |
| 12/2017 - 02/2018 | Unknown                          |   |
| 03/2018 10/2019   | RN                               | City Hospital Emergency Care<br>Center<br>Mesquite, Texas                                     |
| 11/2019 - 05/2020 | Not Employed in Nursing          | g   |
| 06/2020 - 02/2022 | RN                               | Surepoint Emergency Center<br>Mesquite, Texas   |
| 03/2022 - 10/2023 | RN – Living Donor<br>Coordinator | UT Southwestern – University<br>Hospital Kidney & Liver Transplant<br>Clinic<br>Dallas, Texas |
| 11/2023 - 12/2024 | Unknown                          |   |

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

01/2024 - Present

RN-Transplant

OU Health

Coordinator

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- 6. On or about March 27, 2015, Respondent was issued the sanction of Remedial Education with Fine through an Order of the Board. On or about March 30, 2015, Respondent successfully completed the terms of the Order. A copy of the March 27, 2015, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.
- 7. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with UT Southwestern University Hospital Kidney & Liver Transplant Clinic, and had been in that position for one (1) year and six (6) months
- 8. On or about August 29, 2023, while employed as a Registered Nurse with UT Southwestern University Hospital Kidney & Liver Transplant Clinic, Respondent lacked fitness to practice nursing in that she exhibited signs of impaired behavior while on duty, including: having slurred speech and being unsteady on her feet. Respondent submitted to a for-cause drug screen and Fit for Duty assessment, conducted by a physician who determined she was impaired. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
- 9. On or about August 29, 2023, while employed as a Registered Nurse with UT Southwestern University Hospital Kidney & Liver Transplant Clinic, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Hydrocodone, in that she submitted a specimen for a for-cause drug screen which resulted positive for Hydrocodone. A subsequent review of the drug screen by a Medical Review Officer determined the results were positive for Hydrocodone because the prescription which was used by the Respondent was issued in 2019, was not current and was taken for a purpose for which it was not prescribed. The use of Hydrocodone by a Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in a patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing a patient in potential danger.
- 10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Eight (8) and Nine (9), Respondent states she was too tired to work due to insomnia and takes full responsibility for her lack of sleep. Respondent denies she was impaired due to the use of Hydrocodone but because of exhaustion and anxiety she attributes to a family member's medical condition. Respondent states she had not taken the Hydrocodone in two (2) days and was unaware that the prescription was not valid after two (2) years.

#### 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)(B)&(1)(T) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B), (1)(E), (4), (5)&(10(A).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10),(12)&(14), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 742199, heretofore issued to KRISTIN M KEZAR.
- 5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

#### TERMS OF ORDER

## I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp">http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp</a>. 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. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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.

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B. <u>The course "Righting a Wrong,"</u> a 3.0 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), 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 <u>not</u> being offered by a pre-approved provider. Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at <u>www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</u>.

## V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting, <u>for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month</u> for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as appropriate, will not apply to this period <u>and will not count towards completion of this requirement.</u>

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers: RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- B. Notification of Employment Forms: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

- C. Indirect Supervision: RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the RESPONDENT is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.
- D. Nursing Performance Evaluations: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the individual who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

## VI. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, nalbuphine, propofol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that 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.

• Random screens shall be performed once per month for twelve (12) consecutive months.

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.

<u>Specimens shall be screened</u> 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.

<u>Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens.</u> Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to further disciplinary action, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas

Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

## VII. 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.

#### VIII. 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.

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### 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 day of day of 20 25                   |
|----------------------------------|---|
|                                  | KRIS) IN THEZAR, RESPONDENT                       |
| Swom to and subscribed before me | e this day of, 20                                 |
| SEAL                             |   |
|                                  | Notary Public in and for the State of             |
|                                  | Approved as to form and substance.                |
|                                  | George C. "buck" Johnson, Attorney for Respondent |
|                                  | Signed this 19 day of July 20 25.                 |

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 19th day of July, 2025, by KRISTIN M KEZAR, Registered Nurse License Number 742199, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of August, 2025.

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN

Executive Director on behalf of said Board

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#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of

AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 742199

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issued to KRISTIN MICHELE EVANS

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of KRISTIN MICHELE EVANS, Registered Nurse License Number 742199, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10), 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 October 20, 2014.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
- 2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Baylor University at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, on May 12, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 14, 2007.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2007 - 2010

RN

Methodist Dallas Medical Center Dallas, Texas

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Executive Director of the Board

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2010 - Unknown Transplant Coordinator Methodist Dallas Medical Center Dallas, Texas

07/12 - Unknown RN Parkland Memorial Hospital Dallas, Texas

01/13 - 03/14 RN Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake Dallas, Texas

04/14 - Current Unknown

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and two (2) months.
- 7. On or about March 6, 2014, while employed as a registered nurse with Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas, Respondent removed intravenous (IV) fluids and supplies belonging to the facility, in that she admitted to said removal for her personal use. Respondent's conduct was likely to deprive the facility of the cost of the supplies.
- 8. Respondent admits the conduct outlined in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) although she states that her initial intention was to get a hospital gown for a friend who was attending a hospital theme party that evening. She explains that a hospital secretary brought out a gown to her along with a facial mask and told Respondent that it would be 'cute' if her friend went to the party carrying a bag of fluids as part of her costume. Respondent states that she went into the hospital with the secretary who then handed her a bag of normal saline. Respondent states that she took a second bag of normal saline for herself, along with an IV start kit, IV tubing, extension tubing and a 20 gauge angiocath. Respondent states that she has a history of migraines and was concerned about missing work due to a migraine. Respondent admits that it was a poor decision on her part to take the IV fluids, and she never gave her friend the other bag of fluids as she felt it would be unwise. She later returned all the above and unused items, excluding the gown, to HR on April 25, 2014.
- 9. Respondent submitted verification that she completed a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics, and the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," both of which would have been requirements of this Order.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.

- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(G).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 742199, heretofore issued to KRISTIN MICHELE EVANS.

#### TERMS OF ORDER

### I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas

Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION

AND A FINE in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state without first obtaining the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the nurse licensure compact party state where Respondent wishes to work.

#### II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

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

#### III. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty

dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) days of entry 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.

## IV. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

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

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# RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, a copy will be mailed to me. I understand that if I fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigation and disciplinary sanction, including possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 27 day of MARCH, 2015

KRISTIN MICHELE EVANS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29

CARLOS J ROMERO
My Commission Expires

January 50, 2019

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of

Approved as to form and substance

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Nancy Ropel Willson, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 27 day of Mouse. 2015

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 27th day of March, 2015, by KRISTIN MICHELE EVANS, Registered Nurse License Number 742199, and said Order is final.

Effective this 27th day of March, 20 15.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board