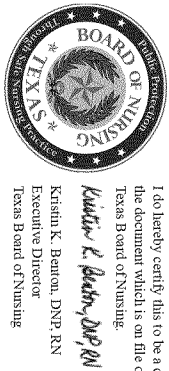




## Texas Board of Nursing

1801 Congress Avenue, Ste. 10-200, Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 305-7400 Fax: (512) 305-7401 [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov)

**Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN**  
*Executive Director*



September 5, 2025

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0030 6621 92  
Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Jennifer Girard Hawn  
106 Parkwest Drive Apt 2b  
West Monroe, LA 71291

Dear Ms. Hawn:

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

Pursuant to the Occupations Code Chapter 53 and §§301.257, 301.452, and 301.453, you have been found to be ineligible for reinstatement of licensure as a nurse in the State of Texas based upon the grounds discussed below. **This is a final determination of licensure reinstatement denial.**

Our records indicate the following:

- On or about May 4, 2013, your license to practice professional nursing in the State of Louisiana was suspended, and probated for a minimum of three (3) years through a Consent Order by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, as a result of a Texas Order dated March 19, 2013.
- On March 10, 2015, the Board Revoked your license. The revocation was based on the following findings:

On or about March 20, 2014, you failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to you on March 19, 2013, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of your failure to complete a course entitled "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills;"

On or about March 20, 2014, you failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to you on March 19, 2013, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of your failure to complete a documentation course; and

On or about March 20, 2014, you failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to you on March 19, 2013, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of your failure to complete a Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics course.

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

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

- On or about February 3, 2016, your license to practice professional nursing in the State of Pennsylvania was issued a Final Order by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing as a result of an Agreed Order issued by the Texas Board of Nursing dated March 19, 2013. Petitioner's license was indefinitely suspended until such time as she obtains an unrestricted license in the state of Texas, and she demonstrates that she can resume the competent practice of nursing with reasonable skill and safety to patients.
- On or about November 8, 2018, you entered a plea of Guilty to POSS CDS II, a felony offense committed on January 22, 2017, in the Ninth Judicial District Court, Parish of Rapids, Louisiana, under Docket No. 335771. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against you were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt and you were placed on probation for a period of two (2) years, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs. On or about November 8, 2019, you were discharged early from probation.
- On November 15, 2022, you stated you successfully completed a program at Milestone Recovery and have remained compliant with all recommendations.
- In a letter dated May 5, 2023, Annabelle Mize, Owner/Manager of Selah Recovery, Monroe, Texas, states that you were residing at Selah Sober Living as of January 1, 2023. You were previously residing at Estelle Sober Living from November 15, 2022, until you moved into Selah Sober Living on January 1, 2023.
- On or about August 28, 2024, you entered into Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center, Rayville, Louisiana, for Amphetamine-type substance use disorder, severe-remission and Opioid use disorder, severe remission. You were discharged on August 28, 2024. They wanted to gather more collateral data, run their own drug screens to include urine, blood, and hair and discuss the case in more detail in daily multidisciplinary treatment meetings. They would finalize diagnosis and recommendation after staffing. Revision of DSM-5 criteria may be appropriate after further information is gathered and test results are returned.
- On or about September 4, 2024, you completed a forensic psychological evaluation performed by J. Brandon Waits, Ph.D. According to Dr. Waits, the assessment results suggested you likely underreported some of your psychological difficulties during the evaluation. Other findings suggested you tend to be self-critical, introverted, polite, and unassertive. You admitted to using meth intravenously one-time since you left treatment, and as such, you may need to complete additional treatment (decision deferred to the treatment team after all of the evaluation data have been obtained). You have a history of amphetamine use disorder, severe, with use since treatment, opioid use disorder, severe, in remission ADHD. Dr. Waits' recommendations would be made after the multidisciplinary team has reviewed and considered all of the relevant data.
- In a letter dated September 6, 2024, Michael E. McCormick, MD, ABAM, of Palmetto Addiction Recovery Center, Inc., Rayville, Louisiana, states your diagnoses was Amphetamine use disorder, severe, remission Opioid use disorder, severe, remission ADHD, combined presentation. You reported a two-day Methamphetamine use in early June 2023 which may coincide with you

stopping aftercare in 2023. You met all criteria for severe amphetamine and opioid use disorder by history with a relapse of amphetamine since her last treatment. You have used in larger amounts or a longer period of time than intended with inability to cut down or quit this use multiple times. You have spent a great deal of time recovering from the effects of these substances and use them in hazardous conditions such as driving. You have exhibited craving, withdrawal, and tolerance symptoms and continue to use alcohol despite interpersonal problems, physical, and psychological problems caused by or exacerbated by this use. Dr. McCormick's recommendations were for you to sign and follow a new five-year RNP monitoring contract. Attend AA meetings in accordance with current RNP policy and acquire an AA home group. A minimum of 90 meetings (in-person) in the first 90 days, and then attend AA in accordance with RNP contract. No more than one meeting per week be done virtually and all others are done in person. Acquire an AA sponsor and begin working the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in a timely fashion under the direction of a sponsor. A minimum of five contacts per week with a sponsor for the first 90 days, and then a minimum of two contacts per week for the duration of her RNP contract. Attend weekly aftercare meetings for at least one year (52 sessions, from this date forward) with Phillip Ables at Palmetto in Monroe. Attend weekly RNP meetings for the duration of and in accordance with your RNP monitoring contract. Return to Palmetto quarterly over the next year for mirroring in Small Group and attendance in Professionals Group. Small Group begins at 10:30am each weekday and Professionals Group begins at 2:45pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Make an appointment to see Dr. McCormick, Dr. Weiss, Jennifer Garrett, FNP, or Ryan Yates, PMHNP quarterly over the next year for follow-up and medication management. Six-month follow-ups for the second year of RNP contract, then yearly follow up for the remainder of your RNP contract. Dr. McCormick believes that you could be considered for return to the safe practice of Nursing after the monitoring contract has been executed, RN refresher course has been completed, and you have received your permission for return to duty.

Petitioner has not started the RNP monitoring contract yet.

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

- §301.452(b)(3): "a conviction for, or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision or deferred disposition for, a felony or for a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;"
- §301.452(b)(8): "revocation, suspension, or denial of, or any other action relating to, the person's license or privilege to practice nursing in another jurisdiction or under federal law;"
- §301.452(b)(12): "lack of fitness to practice because of a mental or physical health condition that could result in injury to a patient or the public;"

Further, the Board has adopted rules, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.28, including the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct, that set forth the considerations and criteria for determining the effect of criminal offenses on the eligibility of a person to obtain a license. An individual is subject to denial of licensure or to disciplinary action for a conviction for, or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision or deferred disposition for, a felony that is directly related to the practice of nursing or for a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude that is directly related to the practice of nursing. Further, the Board's Rules apply to crimes that have been adjudicated through agreement or judicial order by a state or federal

criminal justice system, without re-litigation of the underlying factual basis for the agreement or judicial order. A review of your file indicates that you are ineligible for licensure based upon the factors set forth in §213.28.

The Board has determined that your criminal conviction(s) are directly related to the practice of nursing using the following factors: the nature and seriousness of the crime, the relationship of the crime to the purposes for requiring a license to engage in the occupation, the extent to which a license might offer an opportunity to engage in further criminal activity of the same type as that in which the person previously had been involved, the relationship of the crime to the ability or capacity required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the licensed occupation, and any correlation between the elements of the crime and the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation (as required by Occupations Code §53.022). In determining whether to take action on your directly related conviction(s), the Board has considered the following factors: the extent and nature of the your past criminal activity, your age when the crime was committed, the amount of time that has elapsed since your last criminal activity, your conduct and work activity before and after the criminal activity, evidence of your rehabilitation or rehabilitative effort while incarcerated or after release, and evidence of your fitness, including letters of recommendation (as required by Occupations Code §53.023).

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

The Board has also adopted a rule, located at 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.29(d)(1), regarding "Substance Use Disorders and Abuse/Misuse of Alcohol or Drugs" related to fitness to practice, which states: "Individuals who have been diagnosed, treated, or hospitalized for a substance use disorder that may impair their ability to practice nursing safely, will, at a minimum, be required to demonstrate sobriety and abstinence from drugs and alcohol for a minimum of twelve consecutive months, through verifiable and reliable evidence, in order to obtain or retain licensure. Verifiable and reliable evidence of sobriety and abstinence from drugs and alcohol may include evidence of the completion of inpatient, outpatient, or aftercare treatment, random drug screens, individual or group therapy, and/or support group attendance." You have failed to provide proof of sobriety in accordance with the requirements of 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.29(d)(1).

Texas Occupations Code Chapters 53 and 301, as well as the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27 - §213.33, the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies, and the Board's Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct are hereby incorporated by reference herein and may be located on the Board's website at [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

Please refer to Occupations Code §53.052 and Government Code Chapter 2001. Further, Occupations Code §53.026 requires the State Auditor to develop and publish a guide of best practices for applicants with prior convictions to utilize when applying for licensure. A link to the State Auditor's Office may be found at: <https://www.sao.texas.gov/>.

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

Jennifer Girard Hawn  
September 5, 2025  
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Due to this denial, you have the right to a public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge with the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Should you decide to appeal the decision to deny you licensure, please submit a written request for a public hearing, to the attention of Office of General Counsel, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200, Austin, Texas, 78701. Your written request to appeal this decision must be received in our office within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter. Further, if this office receives information regarding additional criminal conduct or behavior that has not been previously disclosed to or discovered by this office, please be advised that evidence of such additional criminal conduct or behavior may be used against you during the public hearing in this matter to show that you lack the good professional character and other requirements for licensure.

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

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

Sincerely,



Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN  
Executive Director

KKB/242

J5(2025.06.30)