

### **DOCKET NUMBER 507-25-20330**

IN THE MATTER OF PERMANENT REGISTERED NURSE NUMBER 756411 and PERMANENT LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE NUMBER 213631 **ISSUED TO HEATHER ANN ZELLER,** RESPONDENT

§ BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE

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OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

### OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: HEATHER ANN ZELLER 1152 COTTON THOMPSON ROAD **LUFKIN, TX 75901** 

> CHRISTIAAN SIANO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE PO BOX 13025 AUSTIN, TX 78711-3025

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on October 23, 2025, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) the Default Dismissal Order, issued by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in the above cited matter; (2) recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's registered and vocational nursing licenses by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On July 16, 2025, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on her behalf. During the hearing, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Hearing by first class and certified mail return receipt requested to her last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued the Default Dismissal Order, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of the Default Dismissal Order. issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the

Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board has determined that the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's registered and vocational nursing licenses pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations and conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which have been deemed admitted, and which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23(I), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT RESPONDENT'S Registered Nursing License No. 765411 and Vocational Nursing License No. 213631, previously issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same are hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 23th day of October, 2025.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

KRISTIN K. BENTON, DNP, RN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Kustin K. Benton, DAP, KN

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of
Permanent Registered Nurse
License Number 756411 &
Permanent Vocational Nurse
License Number 213631
Issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER,
Respondent

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BEFORE THE TEXAS

#### FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, HEATHER ANN ZELLER, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 756411, which is in current status at the time of this pleading. Further, Respondent is a Vocational Nurse holding license number 213631, which is in inactive status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record, and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

#### CHARGE I.

On or about November 1, 2024, Respondent became non-compliant with the Reinstatement Agreed Order issued to her by the Texas Board of Nursing on May 9, 2023, requiring her to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with the Agreed Order, in that she declined to participate in TPAPN. On January 14, 2025, TPAPN closed the Respondent's case and referred her back to the Board.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(11)(B).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 213.27 - 213.33.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov">www.bon.texas.gov</a>.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order(s) of the Board dated May 22, 2014, and May 9, 2023.

Filed this 28th day of May, 2025.

#### TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated May 22, 2014, and May 9, 2023.

### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 756411 & Vocational Nurse License Number 213631 issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	REINSTATEMENT AGREED ORDER		

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Reinstatement, hereinafter referred to as the Petition, of Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631, held by HEATHER ANN ZELLER, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner.

Petitioner waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on March 21, 2023.

### 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 Petitioner and Petitioner was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
- 2. Petitioner waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 3. Petitioner received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Angelina College, Lufkin, Texas, on August 9, 2007. Petitioner received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Angelina College, Lufkin, Texas, on May 9, 2008. Petitioner was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 18, 2007. Petitioner was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 24, 2008.
- 4. Petitioner's nursing employment history includes:

5/08 – 12/08 LVN/RN Memorial Hospital Lufkin, Texas

Petitioner's nursing employment history continued:

1/09	Unknown	
2/09 – 8/09	RN	Parkwood Place Nursing Home Health & Rehab Lufkin, Texas
9/09 - 1/10	Not working	
2/10 – 4/12	RN	Exceptional Home Care Tyler, Texas
7/11 - 8/11	RN	Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health Sherman, Texas
5/13 – 7/13	RN	Fonemed Telephone Triage Nursing Ventura, CA
7/13 – Present		Not employed in nursing

- 5. On or about May 22, 2014, the Board accepted the Voluntary Surrender of Petitioner's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas through an Order of the Board. A copy of the May 22, 2014, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Reinstatement Agreed Order.
- 6. On or about November 3, 2022, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Reinstatement of License to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 7. Petitioner presented the following in support of said petition:
  - A. Letter of support dated December 10, 2022, from Julie A. Alston, Attorney at Law
  - B. Letter of support from Blythe McKinney Legal Assistant
  - C. Letter of support dated December 10, 2022, from Michelle Ross, President Lufkin Educational Broadcasting Foundation
  - D. Documentation of the required continuing education contact hours.
- 8. On or about March 13, 2023, Petitioner completed a forensic psychological evaluation, performed by Paul Andrews, Ph.D. According to Dr. Andrews, Petitioner's responses during the interview were sometimes rambling to the point that Petitioner was screened for cognitive problems. Her personality test results were compromised due to excessive efforts to present herself in a positive light. Petitioner's strongly defensive self-presentation leaves room for questioning how she will react during times of great stress. Due to the fact that she has not practiced as a nurse for more than eight years, one can expect re-entry will be

quite stressful and her difficulties with attention could compound the stress. Dr. Andrew's recommends that petitioner be referred to Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN).

- 9. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for relicensure.
- 10. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
- 11. The Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past criminal conduct in light of the considerations and criteria provided in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§213.28 & 213.33, and, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 12. Relicensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public provided Petitioner complies with the stipulations outlined in this Order.
- 13. The Executive Director's review of Petitioner's eligibility for relicensure has been made on the basis of Petitioner's disclosures.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. This reinstatement is made pursuant to Sections 301.453(c) and 301.467, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.26.
- 3. The Board may relicense an individual upon evaluation of the factors in 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.27, and pursuant to 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §213.33, if the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform her conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.
- 4. The Board may license an individual who has been previously convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty or pled nolo contendere to any crime whether or not a sentence was imposed upon consideration of the factors set out in 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.28 and, as applicable, Chapter 53, Section 53.001 et seq., Texas Occupations Code.
- 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.

- 6. This Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of Petitioner's disclosures. Any subsequently discovered discrepancies will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of Petitioner's license(s).
- 7. 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. REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSURE AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that the petition of HEATHER ANN ZELLER for reinstatement of license to practice nursing in the State of Texas be **GRANTED** and Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631 is/are hereby **REINSTATED** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. Until successfully completed, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to PETITIONER to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. Until successfully completed, this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Until successfully completed, PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER'S license(s) will be designated "single state" as applicable and PETITIONER 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, PETITIONER 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 Reinstatement Agreed Order.

# III. PEER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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

- A. Within forty-five (45) days following the date of relicensure, PETITIONER SHALL apply to TPAPN.
- B. Within ninety (90) days following the date of relicensure, PETITIONER 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), if licensed as a registered nurse, or in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00), if licensed as a vocational nurse.
- C. Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, PETITIONER SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.
- D. PETITIONER SHALL <u>comply</u> <u>with all requirements of the TPAPN</u> <u>participation agreement</u> during its term and SHALL keep all applicable license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas in current status.
- E. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to <u>notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.</u>
- IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR REFRESHER COURSE, EXTENSIVE ORIENTATION, OR NURSING PROGRAM OF STUDY IN PROFESSIONAL REGISTERED NURSING

Prior to practicing as a registered nurse in the State of Texas, PETITIONER SHALL:

A. Apply for a Six Month Temporary Permit to Complete Refresher Course, Extensive Orientation, or Nursing Program of Study in Professional Registered Nursing for the limited purpose of completing a refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in professional registered nursing. The application for the Six Month Temporary Permit is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER SHALL NOT, in any way, attempt to use the temporary permit for any purpose other than

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completing the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study in professional registered nursing.

- B. Successfully complete a Board approved refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for professional registered nursing. Petitioner MUST obtain Board approval of the nursing refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program, as applicable, prior to enrollment. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include registered nurses and the course's content shall, at a minimum, include: 1) Review of NPA, Rules, Position Statements; 2) Determination of Individual Scope of Practice and role in patient safety; 3) Review of the nursing process to include assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation; 4) Pharmacology review; 5) Medication administration; 6) Documentation, quality assurance, and legal implication for nursing practice; and, 7) Documentation of current CPR certification prior to beginning precepted clinical learning experience. The course must contain no less than a total of 80 hours of clinical practice providing direct patient care supervised by a qualified registered nurse instructor who meets or exceeds the Board's minimum criteria for eligibility as an instructor. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- C. Upon completion of the refresher course, extensive orientation, or nursing program of study for professional registered nursing, PETITIONER SHALL return the temporary permit to the Board's office and PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to notify the Board, on a form provided by the Board, of Petitioner's successful completion of the refresher course, including the required 80 hours of supervised practice.
- D. <u>Upon verification of successful completion of the conditions</u> as set out in Paragraphs A through C of this Section, PETITIONER SHALL submit a completed License Reactivation Form for Registered Nurses, which is available via the Nurse Portal on the Board's website (www.bon.texas.gov). PETITIONER shall pay all re-registration fees and, subject to meeting all other requirements for licensure in Texas, shall be issued the applicable license to practice registered nursing in the State of Texas, which shall be subject to the terms of this Order.

# V. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, PETITIONER SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) within one (1) year of relicensure, 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).

In order to receive credit for completion of this/these course(s), PETITIONER 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. PETITIONER 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>.

### VI. EFFECT OF NONCOMPLIANCE

SHOULD PETITIONER 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 PETITIONER'S license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

### VII. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Reinstatement Agreed Order, all encumbrances will be removed from PETITIONER'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, PETITIONER may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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### PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I understand this Order is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of my petition and disclosures. I further understand that subsequently discovered discrepancies in my petition and/or disclosures will result in investigation and possible disciplinary action, up to revocation of my license(s).

I have reviewed this Order. I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order.

I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and a copy will be mailed to me. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to reinstating my license(s) to practice nursing in the state of Texas. 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 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, and/or REVOCATION of my license(s) and/or nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 10 day of 40vil, 20

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of ADVII

JENNIFER LYNN YOUNG Notary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 08-19-2023 Notary ID 132134867

Notary Public in and for the State of

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Reinstatement Agreed Order that was signed on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023, by HEATHER ANN ZELLER, Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631, and said Reinstatement Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of May, 2023.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

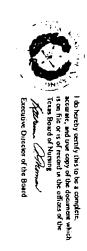
Karin annas

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$
Registered Nurse License Number 756411 \$
& Vocational Nurse License Number 213631 \$
issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER



# ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631, issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

  Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Angelina College, Lufkin, Texas on August 9, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 18, 2007. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Angelina College, Lufkin, Texas on May 9, 2008. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 24, 2008.

Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

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12/2007 - 04/2008	Unknown.	
05/2008 - 12/2008	LVN/RN	Memorial Hospital Lufkin, Texas
01/2009	Unknown	
02/2009 - 08/2009	RN	Parkwood Place Nursing Home Health and Rehab Lufkin, Texas
09/2009 - 01/2010	Unknown	
02/2010 - 07/2011	RN	Exceptional Home Care Tyler, Texas
08/2011 - Present	RN	Angels of Care Pediatric Home Health Sherman, Texas

- On or about December 9, 2005, Respondent pled guilty to the offense of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Class B misdemeanor offense committed on November 13, 2005), in the County Court of Polk County, Texas, under Cause Number 2005-1266. As a result of the plea, the Respondent was sentenced to one hundred and eighty (180) days confinement; however, the sentence was suspended and the Respondent was placed on probation for a period of six (6) months. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about February 27, 2012, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (2<sup>ND</sup>), a Class A Misdemeanor offense committed on July 12, 2011, in the Angelina County Court at Law Number Two (2), Lufkin, Texas, under Cause Number 11-1219. As a result of the plea, the Respondent was placed on community supervision for a period of one (1) year, and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- 7. On or about December 6, 2011, Respondent failed to repay her Texas Guaranteed Student Loan, as provided in Section 57.491 of the Texas Education Code. Respondent's failure to repay her Texas Guaranteed Student Loan may have deprived other applicants of funds for nursing school loans.
- 8. On or about October 5, 2012, Respondent entered a plea of Guilty to UNAUTH USE OF

VEHICLE, a State Jail Felony offense committed on July 12, 2012, in the 159th Judicial District Court, Angelina County, Texas, under Cause Number 2012-0552. As a result of the plea, Respondent was placed on community supervision for a period of four (4) years.

- 9. Formal Charges were filed on October 14, 2013.
- 10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on October 15, 2013.
- On May 21, 2014, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's notarized statement, dated May 19, 2014, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 12. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 13. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.

#### 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(7)&(13).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631, heretofore issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.

- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TAC§§213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

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### **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631, heretofore issued to HEATHER ANN ZELLER, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, are accepted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional or vocational nursing, use the title of registered nurse or vocational nurse or the abbreviation RN or LVN or wear any insignia identifying herself as a registered nurse or a vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse or a vocational nurse during the period in which the licenses are surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order; and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

Effective this 22nd day of May, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

By:

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

of said Board

## HEATHER ANN ZELLER 1113 N. First Street Lufkin, TX 75901

, Registered Nurse License Number 756411, and Vocational Nurse License Number 213631

Voluntary Surrender Statement  Dear Texas Board of Nursing:
I no longer desire to be licensed as a nurse. Accordingly, I voluntarily surrender myllicense(s) to practice in Texas.
I waive representation by counsel and consent to the entry of an Order which outlines requirements for reinstatemen
of my license. I understand that I may not petition for reinstatement until one (1) year from the effective date of the
Order. I understand that I will be required to comply with the Board's Rules and Regulations in effect at the time
Signature Signature Signature Part Signature Signature Sold Signature Sold Signature Sold Signature Sold Signature Sold Signature Signat
Before me, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared HEATHER ANN ZELLER who, being duly swom by me, stated that he or she executed the above for the purpose therein contained and that he or she understood same.  Sworn to before me the