



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 BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of §  
PEDRO CRUZ, § ORDER OF  
PETITIONER for Eligibility for § CONDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY  
Licensure §

On the date entered below, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the Petition for Declaratory Order and supporting documents filed by PEDRO CRUZ, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER, together with any documents and information gathered by staff and PETITIONER's Certificate contained herein. Information received by the Board produced evidence that PETITIONER may have violated Section 301.452 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.

PETITIONER waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on October 15, 2006, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about May 23, 2006, Petitioner submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order requesting a determination of eligibility for licensure in compliance with Section 301.257 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
2. Petitioner waived representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review.
3. Petitioner graduated with a certificate in vocational nursing from Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies, Weslaco, Texas, in May 2006.
4. Petitioner completed the Petition for Declaratory Order and answered "yes" to Question Number Two (2), which reads as follows: *"Have you been convicted, adjudged guilty by a court, pled guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrest (excluding minor traffic violations)? This includes expunged offenses and*

*deferred adjudication with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUI's, DWI's, and PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] do not need to be disclosed, therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIP's or MIC's, you must answer "Yes".)*

5. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
  - A. On August 6, 1999, Petitioner plead Guilty or No Contest to the misdemeanor Class B offense of Failure to Stop and Leave Information in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Cameron County, Texas. Petitioner was sentenced to nine (9) months probation. On May 6, 2000, Petitioner was successfully discharged from probation.
  - B. On August 8, 2000, Petitioner plead guilty to the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Cameron County, Texas. Petitioner was sentenced to jail for a period of six (6) months probated to a term of fifteen (15) months probation to include three (3) months house arrest. On March 4, 2002, Petitioner was discharged from probation.
  - C. On August 31, 2001, Petitioner plead guilty to the misdemeanor Class A offense of DWI-2nd in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Cameron County, Texas. Petitioner was sentenced to twelve (12) months confinement in county jail probated to a term of eighteen (18) months probation. On February 31, 2003, Petitioner was discharged from probation.
6. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
7. On August 6, 2006, Petitioner was requested to undergo a forensic psychological evaluation to include a chemical dependency component and a polygraph exam. On September 8, 2006, Petitioner presented to Troy Martinez, Psy.D., Corpus Christi, Texas, to undergo a forensic psychological evaluation to include a chemical dependency component and polygraph exam to assist in determining his eligibility for licensure. The results of evaluation indicate that Petitioner is capable of conducting himself in accordance with the requirements of Rules 213.27 - 213.29 at 22 TAC. The results indicate that Petitioner is capable of consistently behaving in accordance with the minimal standards set by the Board's Rules 217.11 at 22 TAC and he would be able to consistently behave in accordance with generally accepted nursing standards and consistently be able to avoid behaviors identified as constituting unprofessional misconduct.

While it appears that Petitioner certainly misused/abused alcohol for a period following an emotionally tumultuous separation/divorce at age 20/21, there is no reliable evidence to indicate a substance dependence/addiction or any other type of clinically significant contemporary psychopathology. Petitioner's life appears to have stabilized over the past few years, now grounded in a stable relationship of the past 7 years and father to 2 children in his

immediate care. Letters of recommendations/reference from nursing instructors also describe Petitioner (and his character) in especially positive terms. Petitioner's history of often selecting caring-role types of employment with individuals of vulnerable populations (particularly those with mental retardation) also suggests a certain compassion relevant to nursing care. (It is noted that Petitioner has a brother with mental retardation.) Elevated SASSI Defensiveness score was considered a situational artifact when viewing the full set of information and data available from Petitioner's examination. Petitioner's polygraph results disclosed that Petitioner reported abuse of marijuana in the past at approximately age 19, and abuse of cocaine 5-6x approximately 3-4 years ago.

8. The Board received letters of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
  - A letter of recommendation dated May 16, 2006, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by G. Alviso, LVN, VN Instructor, Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies, Weslaco, Texas.
  - A letter of recommendation dated May 16, 2006, was submitted to the Board on behalf of Petitioner by Irene Elizalde, RN, Vocational Nursing Director, Valley Grande Institute for Academic Studies, Weslaco, Texas.
9. Licensure 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.
10. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
11. Petitioner has sworn that his past behavior conforms to the Board's professional character requirements. Petitioner presented no evidence of behavior which is inconsistent with good professional character.
12. Petitioner has been advised that any information found to be incomplete, incorrect, or misleading will be considered and may result in an ultimate determination of ineligibility or the later revocation of a license obtained through misrepresentation.
13. On or about October 15, 2006, the Executive Director considered evidence of Petitioner's past behavior in light of the character factors set out in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27 and determined that Petitioner currently demonstrates the criteria required for good professional character.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board of Nurse Examiners has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

2. Petitioner has submitted a petition in compliance with Section 301.257 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
3. Petitioner's criminal history reflects criminal conduct which is grounds for denial of a license under Section 301.452 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
4. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Board of any fact or event that could constitute a ground of ineligibility for licensure under Section 301.452, Texas Occupations Code.
5. 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 Texas Administrative Code §213.28 and evaluating the direct relationship to nursing according to Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code.
6. The Board may license an individual with prior behaviors inconsistent with the Board's character requirements if, upon evaluation of the factors in 22 Texas Administrative Code §213.27, the Board is satisfied that the individual is able to consistently conform his conduct to the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, the Board's Rules and Regulations, and generally accepted standards of nursing practice.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that upon meeting the requirements for graduation and payment of any required fees, PEDRO CRUZ, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN<sup>®</sup> Examination). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be eligible for temporary authorization to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Vocational Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *et seq.*, and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to PETITIONER's multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while PETITIONER's license is encumbered by this Order the PETITIONER may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where PETITIONER wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that PETITIONER, upon attaining a passing grade on the NCLEX-PN®, shall be issued a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which shall bear the appropriate notation and PETITIONER SHALL be subject to the following stipulations.

(1) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of initial licensure, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence. PETITIONER SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. It shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify PETITIONER's successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found on the Board's website, [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us) (under BNE events).*

(2) PETITIONER SHALL, within one (1) year of initial licensure, successfully complete a course in nursing ethics. PETITIONER SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify PETITIONER's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Board approved courses may be found on the Board's website, [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us) (under BNE events).*

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD PETITIONER PRACTICE AS A VOCATIONAL NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, PETITIONER WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND PETITIONER MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (VN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(3) PETITIONER SHALL notify all future employers in vocational nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on PETITIONER's license. PETITIONER SHALL present

a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Petitioner by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a vocational nurse.

(5) For the duration of the stipulation period, PETITIONER SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Vocational Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as PETITIONER, 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 experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Petitioner is currently working. PETITIONER SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). PETITIONER SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. PETITIONER SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(6) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Petitioner by the Board, periodic reports as to PETITIONER's capability to practice vocational nursing. These reports shall be completed by the Registered Nurse or Licensed Vocational Nurse who supervises the PETITIONER. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for two (2) years of employment as a vocational nurse.

(7) PETITIONER SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, PETITIONER 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 prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and PETITIONER SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.**

(8) PETITIONER SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the second three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the stipulation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the PETITIONER's place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require PETITIONER to produce a specimen for screening.

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. PETITIONER SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action by this Board.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, PETITIONER SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

PETITIONER'S CERTIFICATION

I am the Petitioner in this matter. I have fully and truthfully disclosed all of my past criminal conduct, and I have caused a complete and accurate criminal history to be submitted to the Board of Nurse Examiners from each jurisdiction in which I have been adjudged guilty by way of conviction or deferred order. I certify that my past behavior, except as disclosed in my Petition for Declaratory Order, has been in conformity with the Board's professional character rule. I have provided the Board with complete and accurate documentation of my past behavior in violation of the penal law of any jurisdiction which was disposed of through any procedure short of conviction, such as: conditional discharge, deferred adjudication or dismissal. I have no criminal prosecution pending in any jurisdiction.

In connection with my petition, I acknowledge that I have read and I understand Section 301.257, Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.452(a), (b) and (c), Texas Occupations Code, and Chapter 53, Section 53.001 *et seq.*, Texas Occupations Code, and Board Rules 213.27, 213.28, and 213.29 at 22 Texas Administrative Code. I agree with all terms of this Order, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and any stipulations as set out in this Order. I acknowledge that this Order is stipulated and I understand that I am not eligible to receive a Graduate Vocational Nurse Permit to practice. I agree to inform the Board of any other fact or event that could constitute a ground for denial of licensure prior to registering for the NCLEX-PN® Examination or accepting any permit or license from the Board of Nurse Examiners.

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 to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of this Order and request that the Executive Director of the Board of Nurse Examiners enter this Order.

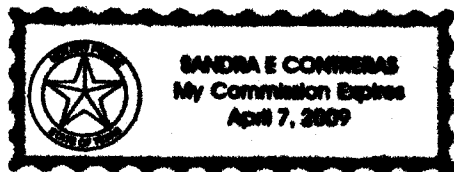
Signed this 14 day of November, 2006.

Pedro Cruz  
PEDRO CRUZ, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006.

SEAL

Sandra E. Contreras  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas






WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Order of Conditional Eligibility that was signed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006, by PEDRO CRUZ, PETITIONER, for Petition for Declaratory Order, and said Order is final.

Entered this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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