



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

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In the Matter of §  
ARMANDO JAMES PEREZ § 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 Application for Licensure by Examination and supporting documents filed by ARMANDO JAMES PEREZ, 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 November 18, 2004, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about March 16, 2004, Petitioner submitted an Application for Licensure by Examination 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 Diploma in Vocational Nursing from Temple College, Temple, Texas, on May 14, 2004.

4. Petitioner disclosed the following criminal history, to wit:
  - A. On December 2, 1996, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Issuance of a Bad Check. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and was assessed a fine and ordered to make full restitution.
  - B. On August 21, 1998, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Theft by Check in the County Court at Law of Bell County, Texas. Petitioner entered a plea of guilty and was assessed a fine in the amount of two hundred eighty-seven dollars (\$287.00).
  - C. On November 17, 2003, Petitioner was charged with the misdemeanor offense of Theft by Check in the County Court at Law of Bell County, Texas. On December 31, 2003, Petitioner was granted a motion and order to dismiss; restitution made.
  - D. On November 18, 2004, Petitioner plead guilty to the misdemeanor offense of Driving While Intoxicated in the County Court at law of Coryell County, Texas, and was sentenced to one (1) year probation.
5. There is no evidence of any subsequent criminal conduct.
6. On August 23, 2004, Petitioner was requested to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation to supplement his file. Petitioner, as a result of that request, underwent multiple evaluations.
7. On July 20, 2004, Petitioner was seen by Ann Brown, BS, LCDC, Scott & White Clinic, Temple, Texas, to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation. The results of the evaluation indicate that Petitioner minimized his drinking and denies he has a problem despite his arrest. Ms. Brown recommends that Petitioner enter the Scott & White Drug Treatment Program and upon successful completion of the program receive additional information with follow-up plans.
8. On September 30, 2004, Petitioner was seen by William B. Berning, MSW, LCSW, BCD, Associated Family Counselors, Temple, Texas, to undergo a chemical dependency evaluation. The results of the evaluation indicate that Petitioner does not have a dependence on alcohol. Mr. Berning feels that Petitioner would be capable of complying with the Board's rules and regulations and meets all generally accepted nursing standards.
9. The Board received a letter of support/recommendation for Petitioner from the following:
  - A letter of reference dated March 11, 2004, was submitted on behalf of Petitioner by Glynda Parker, MSN, RN, VN Chairman, Temple College, Temple, Texas.

10. Licensure of Petitioner poses no direct threat to the health and safety of patients or the public.
11. The Executive Director's review of the grounds for potential ineligibility has been made on the basis of the information provided by Petitioner.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. On November 18, 2004, 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, ARMANDO JAMES PEREZ, PETITIONER, is CONDITIONALLY ELIGIBLE to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Vocational 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<sup>®</sup>, 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. 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. 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 each present employer 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 to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. 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 to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(4) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE each present employer in vocational nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Petitioner by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. 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) 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.

(6) 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.**

(7) 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.

(8) PETITIONER SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the PETITIONER's progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice vocational nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the PETITIONER's stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the stipulation period, or until PETITIONER is dismissed from therapy.



(9) PETITIONER SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which shall be for substance abuse; and PETITIONER SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by PETITIONER. PETITIONER SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

(10) PETITIONER SHALL CAUSE his probation officer to submit written reports on forms provided to the Petitioner by the Board. The reports shall indicate the PETITIONER's compliance with the court ordered probation. The reports shall be furnished each and every three (3) month period until PETITIONER is released from probation.

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.

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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.

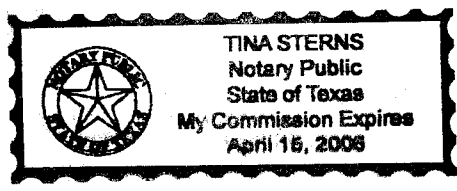
Signed this 18 day of November, 2004.

Armando James Perez  
ARMANDO JAMES PEREZ, PETITIONER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of November, 2004

Tina Sterns  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas


SEAL



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 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2004, by ARMANDO JAMES PEREZ, PETITIONER, for Application for Licensure by Examination, and said Order is final.

Entered this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2004.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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