



Texas Board of Nursing

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

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director

March 3, 2026

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0059 4588 37
Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Amara Uloaku Oparanozie
c/o Dan Lye, Attorney at Law
7600 Chevy Chase Dr
Suite 300
Austin, TX 78752

Dear Ms. Oparanozie:

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 October 13, 2022, you pleaded guilty and were convicted of CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT HEALTH CARE FRAUD and three counts of HEALTHCARE FRAUD, AIDING AND ABETTING, all felony offenses committed between January 2008 through February 2016, in the United States District Court Southern District of Texas Houston Division, under Cause No. 4:16-CR-00254. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Federal Bureau of Prison for a period of twelve (12) months and one (1) day and ordered to pay eight million five hundred and eight thousand two hundred eighty-nine dollars and forty-two cents (8,508,289.42) in restitution.

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;"

Additionally, you have not successfully demonstrated good professional character or submitted evidence to support involvement in your community, such as stable employment, letters of support, or documentation of volunteer work as stated.

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

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



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.

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.

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.

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

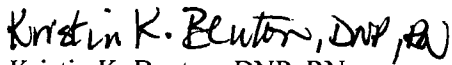
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Avenue, Suite 10-200, Austin, Texas, 78701. Your written request to appeal this decision must be received in our office within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter. Further, if this office receives information regarding additional criminal conduct 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 30th 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

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