



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

July 16, 2026

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0032 9513 17
Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Karen Lee Sims
87 Town and Country Drive
Wichita Falls, TX 76306

Dear Ms. Sims:

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 §§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:

You have less than one consecutive year of sobriety.

On or about June 26, 2025, and July 8, 2025, you had a forensic psychological evaluation that was conducted by Dr. Alexander Howe, Ph.D. Dr. Howe states, given your history of abuse of stimulant drugs, it is necessary that a more inclusive treatment approach be taken.

On or about June 26, 2025, you underwent a polygraph examination with Jack St. John and indicated that you last used methamphetamine one time with friends 6 months ago in December 2024. This is after you submitted a petition for reinstatement to the Texas Board of Nursing. You have less than one year of sobriety, as a requirement for reinstatement.

On or about December 7, 2018, you entered a plea of Guilty to POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE: METHAMPHETAMINE (4-200 GRAMS), a 2nd degree felony offense committed on January 27, 2018, in the 78th Judicial District Court of Wichita County, Texas, under Cause No. 60,549-B. 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 ten (10) years and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00), along with court costs.

On or about September 13, 2016, your license to practice vocational nursing was Revoked through a Default Order by the Texas Board of Nursing.

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, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of THEFT \$50-\$500, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on May 8, 2015, in the County Court at Law of Montague County, Texas, under Cause No. 15-254. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Montague County Jail for a period of ninety (90) days, with ninety (90) days credit given for time served and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about February 10, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of THEFT PROP>=\$20<\$500 BY CHECK, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on July 20, 2015, in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Wichita County, Texas, under Cause No. 50-1401-65623-F. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Wichita County Jail for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days; however, imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and you were placed on probation for a period of two (2) years and ordered to pay court costs.
- On or about February 10, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of THEFT PROP>=\$20<\$500, a Class B misdemeanor offense, committed on May 9, 2015, in the County Court at Law No 2 of Wichita Falls County, Texas, under Cause No. 67351-F. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Wichita County Jail for a period of one hundred (100) days and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about February 10, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of 2 COUNTS THEFT PROP>=\$20<\$500, Class B misdemeanor offenses, committed on April 3, 2015, in the County Court at Law No 2 of Wichita Falls County, Texas, under Cause No. 68042-F. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Wichita County Jail for a period of one hundred (100) days and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about February 10, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of 2 COUTNS THEFT PROP>=\$20<\$500, Class B misdemeanor offenses, committed on March 5, 2015, in the County Court at Law No 2 of Wichita Falls County, Texas, under Cause No. 67886-F. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Wichita County Jail for a period of one hundred (100) days and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about February 10, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to and were convicted of 2 COUNTS THEFT PROP>=\$20<\$500, Class B misdemeanor offenses, committed on April 3, 2015, in the County Court at Law No 2 of Wichita Falls County, Texas, under Cause No. 67893-F. As a result of the conviction, you were sentenced to confinement in the Wichita County Jail for a period of one hundred (100) days and were ordered to pay a fine and court costs.
- On or about March 11, 2016, you entered a plea of Guilty to THEFT PROP>=\$500<\$1500, a Class A misdemeanor offense, committed on March 8, 2016, in the County Court at Law of Wise County, Texas, under Cause No. CR73606. 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 eighteen (18) months and ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

On or about June 14, 2011, your license to practice vocational nursing was suspended with the suspension stayed and you were placed on probation through an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing.

- On or about June 25, 2009, while holding a license as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas and practicing nursing under your practical nursing license issued by the State of Colorado on June 8 2009, you were issued an Order of Suspension by the Colorado State Board of Nursing, indefinitely suspending your Colorado Practical Nursing license No. 46852 for failure to complete the Colorado Board of Nursing Stipulation and Final Agency Order, Case No. 2009-003006 issued on June 8, 2009.

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On June 30, 2009, your Colorado Practical Nurse License was reinstated after you reentered the Colorado Peer Assistance Program.

On or about June 25, 2009, while holding a license as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas and practicing nursing under your practical nursing license issued by the State of Colorado on June 8 2009, you were issued an Order of Suspension by the Colorado State Board of Nursing, indefinitely suspending your Colorado Practical Nursing license No. 46852 for failure to complete the Colorado Board of Nursing Stipulation and Final Agency Order, Case No. 2009-003006 issued on June 8, 2009. On June 30, 2009, your Colorado Practical Nurse License was reinstated after you reentered the Colorado Peer Assistance Program.

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)(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;"

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 Chapter 301, as well as the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.27; §213.29-§213.33, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies are hereby incorporated by reference herein and may be located on the Board's website at www.bon.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 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,

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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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