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

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.
Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing

October 28, 2026

Certified Mail No. 9214 8901 9403 8300 0052 5699 67
Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Carmelina Valenzuela
312 Blanks St
Kerrville, TX 78028

Dear Ms. Valenzuela:

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:

- On or about March 9, 2026, Petitioner underwent a forensic psychological evaluation with Troy Martinez, Psy.D. On or about March 10, 2026, Petitioner underwent polygraph examination with Polygraph Services of South Texas, the examination reports were conducted by Larry Serna.

  Dr. Martinez conclusion states the following:

  The polygraph examinations most problematic findings clearly capture drug (presumably cocaine) use much more recent than her initial claims of abstinence since 2011. Petitioner ultimately reported use of cocaine as recent as 2023, which would have been a violation of parole stipulations, thus reflective of self-defeating, high-risk behavior in the service of drug use. Additionally, Petitioners subsequent, amended disclosure of use 3 years ago may or may not fully account for deceptive statements regarding possession and use of drugs within the past 5 years, thus her remission status is unclear.

  Dr. Martinez's opinion is that Petitioner's drug use status is the centerpiece of predictions regarding current professional fitness. Petitioner's historical drug use has been significant with severe adverse consequences in her life, during which Petitioner was routinely engaging in illegal activities, ethical and character improprieties, and deception despite employment in healthcare and nursing specifically. Petitioner's continued, significantly less frequent use of illicit drugs would clearly represent very risky and reckless judgment, particularly given her history of drug dependence.

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

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

Dr. Martinez offers the opinion and prediction at this time, avoiding unprofessional conduct is rendered much less confident given the uncertainty of Petitioner's actual abstinence/remission from use or dependence.

Dr. Martinez would recommend that Petitioner submit herself to re-examination by forensic psychological evaluation with polygraph component with the expectation that Petitioner will be more forthcoming and fully account for drug use over the past 5 years, in particular.

- On or about December 3, 2012, Petitioner voluntarily surrendered her license to practice nursing in the State of Texas through an Agreed Order of the Board for the following allegations:
    - On or about April 8, 2022, Petitioner pled Guilty to POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE-COCAINE 4-200G, a 2nd Degree felony offense committed on August 13, 2010, in the 198th District Court, Kerr County, Texas, under Cause No. B10-726. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of one hundred forty dollars ($140.00), along with a fine and court costs.
    - On or about April 19, 2011, Petitioner pled No Contest to PURCHASE/FURNISH ALCOHOL TO A MINOR, a Class A misdemeanor offense committed on August 13, 2010, in the County Court at Law of Kerr County, Texas, under Cause No. CR10-1300. As a result of the plea, the proceedings against Petitioner were deferred without entering an adjudication of guilt, and Petitioner was placed on probation for a period of twelve (12) months and ordered to pay a fine and court costs. On or about May 2, 2012, Respondent was discharged from probation.

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, regarding fitness to practice. You have failed to provide sufficient evidence of current fitness to practice based upon the criteria set forth in this rule.

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, 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

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN
Executive Director

KKB/278

J5(2026.08.24)