

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 183824 §  
issued to ALISON LEANN RICKS § ORDER



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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo considered the matter of ALISON LEANN RICKS, Vocational Nurse License Number 183824, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.251, Texas Occupation code and Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code.. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on September 28, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Prior to the institution of Agency proceedings, notice of the matters specified below in these Findings of Fact was served on Respondent and Respondent was given an opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license(s).
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Tri City Community Hospital, Jourdanton, Texas, on December 14, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 1, 2002.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

December 2001 - September 2006

South Texas Regional

Jourdanton, Texas

September 2006 - February 2009

Baptist Health Systems  
San Antonio, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed at Baptist Health Systems, and had been employed for approximately nine (9) months.
7. On or about July 1, 2007 through February 6, 2009, while employed with Baptist Medical Center San Antonio, Texas, Respondent practiced as a vocational nurse without a valid license. Board records indicate that Respondent's license expired on June 30, 2007. Respondent's conduct deceived residents, their families, fellow care givers, and the public in that they believed Respondent's nursing practice was in compliance with all Board Rules and Regulations.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states in June of 2007, she filed on-line to renew her nursing license. A few weeks later, she receive a letter informing her that her payment was returned for insufficient funds. She used her mother's bank card the following day on the site as explained in her letter. Approximately 2 weeks later, she received her printed nursing license and assumed everything went through ok. In February 2009, her boss informed her that her license was delinquent. She immediately called the Board of Nursing and followed the steps they instructed her to do. The following day, she drove up to Austin and filed all forms necessary. She has learned that it is her responsibility to continue monitoring her nursing license via the internet.
9. Formal Charges were filed on July 22, 2010.
10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 23, 2010.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.555 , the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Section 301.251, Texas Occupation code and Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(H)&(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 183824,

heretofore issued to ALISON LEANN RICKS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a REMEDIAL EDUCATION WITH A FINE, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred and fifty (\$250) dollars. RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT 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) hours in length. The course's content shall include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, documentation of care, principles of nursing ethics, confidentiality, professional boundaries, and the Board's Disciplinary Sanction Policies regarding: Sexual Misconduct; Fraud, Theft and Deception; Nurses with Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; and Lying and Falsification. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT 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 RESPONDENT'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 at the following Board website address: <http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.*

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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\* CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

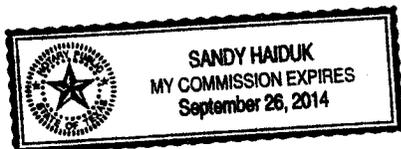
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, a copy will be mailed to me. 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 9 day of February, 2011.

Alison Leann Ricks  
ALISON LEANN RICKS, Respondent

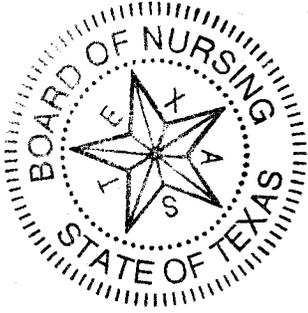
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of February, 2011.

SEAL



Sandy Haiduk  
Notary Public in and for the State of TX

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 9th day of February, 2011, by ALISON LEANN RICKS, Vocational Nurse License Number 183824, and said Order is final.



Effective this 11th day of February, 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Katherine A. Thomas', is written over a horizontal line.

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