

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



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

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 640990 § AGREED
and Vocational Nurse License Number 154069 §
issued to RHEALA SHANTEL THIGPEN MIDDLETON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo considered the matter of RHEALA SHANTEL THIGPEN MIDDLETON, Registered Nurse License Number 640990 and Vocational Nurse License Number 154069, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on November 17, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas. Respondent holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas, which is currently in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Lamar University, Port Arthur, Texas, on August 18, 1995, and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lamar University, Port Arthur, Texas, on May 1, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 20, 1995, and Respondent was license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 17, 1997.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
6. On or about April 10, 2005, Respondent submitted an Online Renewal Document for Registered Nurse to the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, in which she provided false, deceptive, and/or misleading information, in that she answered "No" to the question:

"Have you been convicted, adjudicated guilty by a court, plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests (excluding minor traffic violations) since your last renewal? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without prejudice of guilt. Please note that DUIs, DWIs, and PI's must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. (One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes".)"

Respondent failed to disclose, that on or about May 6, 2003, Respondent entered a plea of Nolo Contendere and was convicted of DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (a Misdemeanor offense committed on August 22, 2001), in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Jefferson County, Texas, under Cause No. 227,080. As a result of the conviction, Respondent was sentenced to confinement in the Jefferson County Jail for a period of ninety (90) days; however, the imposition of the sentence of confinement was suspended, and Respondent was placed on probation for a period of one (1) year. Additionally, Respondent was ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states that she went out with some co-workers after work to Red's Ice House at approximately 4pm. They sat around and talked and played pool until 12am. She had 4 beers while she was there. On her way home she was in an accident and was taken into custody.

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 301.452(b)(2)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(I).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations

Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 640990 and Vocational Nurse License Number 154069, heretofore issued to RHEALA SHANTEL THIGPEN MIDDLETON, 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, 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>.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars. RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. 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.

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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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 24 day of January, 2011.

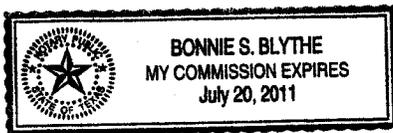
Rheala Shantel Thigpen Middleton
RHEALA SHANTEL THIGPEN MIDDLETON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of January, 2011.

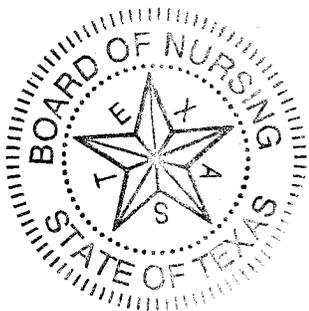
SEAL

Bonnie S. Blythe

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



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 24th day of January, 2010, by RHEALA SHANTEL THIGPEN MIDDLETON, Registered Nurse License Number 640990 and Vocational Nurse License Number 154069, and said Order is final.



Effective this 2nd day of February, 2011.

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