



Respondent's professional nursing employment history (continued):

04/99 - 11/02	RN	University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, TX
12/02 - 12/07	RN	St. Joseph Hospital Houston, TX
01/07 - 09/07	RN	University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, TX
10/07 - Current	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately eight (8) months.
7. On or about September 27, 2007, while employed as a Registered Nurse at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that he was unable to perform his nursing duties, had slurred speech, and was stumbling. Respondent's condition could have affected the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger
8. On or about September 27, 2007, while employed as a Registered Nurse at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent admitted that he engaged in the intemperate use of Ativan. The use of Ativan by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgements, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
9. In response to Findings of Facts Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that he had to work that day because he had just returned from an extended vacation and did not have any more vacation and/or sick time. Respondent admits to taking Advil Cold and Sinus, a Z-Pac, a reducing amount of steroids, and Ativan. Respondent states that the combination of all of these medications had a serious impact on his ability to think, walk, and talk. Respondent states that he has successfully completed Intensive Out-Patient at The Right Step), has attended weekly aftercare meetings, and has attended AA meetings one (1) to two (2) times a week. Respondent states that he continues to see Dr. Powers at The Right Step as his primary care physician.

10. Respondent states that his sobriety date is September 28, 2007.
11. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Finding of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
12. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.
13. Respondent's conduct described in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) and Eight (8) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on chemicals.
14. Respondent's compliance with the terms of a Board approved peer assistance program should be sufficient to protect patients and the public.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(4),(5)&(10)(A).
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 598532, heretofore issued to MARK ALLEN PARIS, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to MARK ALLEN PARIS, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to TPAPN and SHALL, within ninety (90) days following the date of entry of this final Order, sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN participation agreement to the Texas Board of Nursing.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN participation agreement during its term and SHALL keep his license to practice nursing in the State of Texas current.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Texas Board of Nursing of any violation of the TPAPN participation agreement.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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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. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, and 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 to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

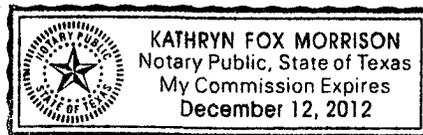
Signed this 5 day of January, 2010.

Mark A Paris  
MARK ALLEN PARIS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.

SEAL

Kathryn Fox Morrison  
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 accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 5 day of January, 2010, by MARK ALLEN PARIS, Registered Nurse License Number 598532, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010.



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