



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 703552 §  
issued to GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE, Registered Nurse License Number 703552, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 2, 2009, 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.
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.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas in December 12, 2003. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 26, 2004.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

02/04 - 05/05	RN	Memorial Herman Southeast Houston, Texas
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06/05 -03/08	Unknown employment	
04/08 - 12/08	RN	E. Houston Regional Medical Center Houston, Texas
12/08 -04/09	RN	Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital Webster, Texas
05/09 - present	unknown employment	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with East Houston Regional Medical Center, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for seven (6) months.
7. On or about November 12, 2008, while employed as a Registered Nurse with East Houston Regional Medical Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Morphine in that she produced a specimen for a drug screen which resulted positive for Morphine. Possession of Morphine is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substance Act). The use of Morphine 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.
8. On or about April 18, 2009 through April 19, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, Webster, Texas, Respondent withdrew fourteen (14) vials of Meperidine 50mg from the Medication Dispensing System (MedDispense) for patient K. T., that was not under her care. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record, and could likely injure the patient in that subsequent care givers did not have accurate information on which to base their decision for further care.
9. On or about April 18, 2009 through April 19, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, Webster, Texas, withdrew fourteen (14) vials of Meperidine 50mg from the Medication Dispensing System (MedDispense) for patient K.T., but failed to document or accurately document the administration of the medication in the patient's Medication Administration Record and/or nurse's notes. Additionally, the patient was questioned by the charge nurse and she stated that she had not received any injections for pain. Respondent's conduct above was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose.
10. On or about April 18, 2009 through April 19, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, Webster, Texas, Respondent withdrew three (3)

Hydromorphone 1mg injections from the Medication Dispensing System (MedDispense) for patient N. G., but failed to document or accurately document the administration of the medication in the patient's Medication Administration Record and/or nurse's notes. Additionally, patient N. G. was questioned by the charge nurse and she stated that she had not received any injections for pain. Respondent's conduct above was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose.

11. On or about April 18, 2009 through April 19, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, Webster, Texas, Respondent withdrew Hydromorphone and Meperidine from the Medication Dispensing System (MedDispense) for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedure for wastage of any of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and placed them in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substance Act).
12. On or about April 18, 2009 through April 19, 2009, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Clear Lake Rehabilitation Hospital, Webster, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Hydromorphone and Meperidine from the facility and patients thereof, or failed to take precautions to prevent such misappropriation. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and patient of the cost of the medication.
13. The Respondent's conduct described in the preceding Findings of Fact was reportable under the provisions of Sections 301.401-301.419, Texas Occupations Code.
14. 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.
15. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that her mother gave her one of her prescription pain pills. Respondent admits making a mistake in doing that now, she was not thinking clearly. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Eight (8) through Twelve (12), Respondent admitted to the Board, during a telephone conversation on July 2, 2009, that she has a chemical dependency problem and would like help for this problem.
16. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Twelve (12) resulted from Respondent's impairment by dependency on chemicals.
17. 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A)(B)&(D), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)(B),(4),(5),(6)(G),(8),(10)(A)(C)&(11)(B).
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 703552, heretofore issued to GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE, 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 GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE, 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 her 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2009.

Grace Elizabeth McIntyre  
GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2009.

SEAL



Gail Roberts  
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 1st day of August, 2009, by GRACE ELIZABETH MCINTYRE, Registered Nurse License Number 703552, and said Order is final.



Entered and effective this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009.

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