

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 § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 675904 §
& Vocational Nurse License Number 162377 §
issued to MELISSA SIMONS § ORDER
aka MELISSA MUECKE §

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MELISSA SIMONS, aka MELISSA MUECKE, Registered Nurse License Number 675904, and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1) and (10) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is currently in delinquent status. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on March 27, 1997, and received a Diploma in Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on June 1, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on April 25, 1997, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 27, 2001.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

3/97 - 6/01	LVN/RN Charge Nurse	Baptist Health System San Antonio, Texas
6/01 - 12/01	RN Charge Nurse	Southwest General Hospital San Antonio, Texas
11/01 - 2/02	RN Charge Nurse	Nix Behavioral Health San Antonio, Texas
2/02 - 5/02	RN Staff Nurse	Coastal Plastic Surgery Clear Lake, Texas
6/02 - 12/04	Case Manager/ ADON	Southwest Texas Home Health Bridge City, Texas
1/05 - 4/05	Field RN/ Case Manager	Nursing Resource Home Health Port Arthur, Texas
5/05 - 9/05	RN Staff Nurse	Office of Ben Kurtis, MD Port Arthur, Texas
9/05 - 2/06	Field RN/ Case Manager	Bexar Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
3/06 - 9/06	ADON/ Case Manager	Complete Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
10/06 - 3/07	RN Staff Nurse	Methodist Healthcare San Antonio, Texas
3/07 - 7/07	RN Case Manager	Millennium Home Health San Antonio, Texas
8/07 - 10/07	RN Case Manager	Outreach Health Services San Antonio, Texas
11/07 - 4/08	RN Case Manager	Samaritan Care Hospice San Antonio, Texas
4/08 - 2/11	Hospice Nurse	Amedisys Hospice Services San Antonio, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

3/11 - present

Charge Nurse

Normandy Terrace
San Antonio, Texas

6. On February 9, 2010, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing that required her to participate and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN). A copy of the February 9, 2010, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
7. On October 21, 2010, Respondent's licenses to practice were Suspended by the Texas Board of Nursing. On or about November 16, 2010, the suspension was stayed and Respondent was placed on Probation for three (3) years. A copy of the October 21, 2010, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.
8. On or about January 12, 2012, Respondent failed to comply with Agreed Order issued to her on October 21, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of her failure to comply with Stipulation Number Thirteen (13) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances....
9. On or about March 15, 2012, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on October 21, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of her failure to comply with Stipulation Number Thirteen (13) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances....
10. 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.
11. Formal Charges were filed on July 15, 2013
12. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 16, 2013.

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 violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1) and (10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 675904, and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, heretofore issued to MELISSA SIMONS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of 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, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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 Texas Board of Nursing 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 five hundred dollars (\$500.00). 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.

(2) The Order of the Board issued to RESPONDENT on October 21, 2010, is still in effect in its entirety and RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for completing the terms of that Order.

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 may 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 violation(s) 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

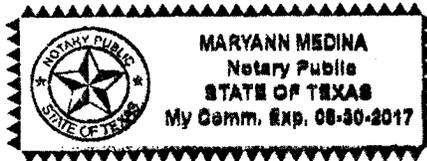
Signed this 28 day of December, 2013.

Melissa Simons
MELISSA SIMONS, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of Dec, 2013.

SEAL

Maryann Medina
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28th day of December, 2013, by MELISSA SIMONS, Registered Nurse License Number 675904, and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8th day of January, 2014.



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



I do hereby certify that 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 § AGREED
License Number 675904 and Vocational §
Nurse License Number 162377 §
issued to MELISSA MUECKE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MELISSA MUECKE, Registered Nurse License Number 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated 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 13, 2010, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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 licenses.
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 and holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which is inactive.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on March 27, 1997 and received a Diploma in Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on June 1, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on April 25, 1997 and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas in February 27, 2001.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/97 - 06/01	LVN/RN Charge Nurse	Baptist Health System San Antonio, Texas
06/01 - 12/01	RN Charge Nurse	Southwest General Hospital San Antonio, Texas
11/01 - 02/02	RN Charge Nurse	Nix Behavioral Health San Antonio, Texas
02/02 - 05/02	RN Staff Nurse	Coastal Plastic Surgery Clear Lake, Texas
06/02 - 12/04	Case Manager Asst. Director of Nurses	Southwest Texas Home Health Bridge City, Texas
01/05 - 04/05	Field RN/Case Manager	Nursing Resource Home Health Port Arthur, Texas
05/05 - 09/05	RN Staff Nurse	Office of Ben Kuritz, MD Port Arthur, Texas
09/05 - 02/06	Field RN/Case Manager	Bear Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
03/06 - 09/06	Asst. Director of Nurses Case Manager	Complete Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
10/06 - 03/07	RN Staff Nurse Telemetry/Med-Surg	Methodist Healthcare San Antonio, Texas
03/07 - 07/07	RN Case Manager	Millennium Home Health San Antonio, Texas
08/07 - 10/07	RN Case Manager	Outreach Health Services San Antonio, Texas
11/07 - 01/08	RN Case Manager	Samaritan Care Hospice San Antonio, Texas
03/25/08 - 04/11/08	RN Case Manager	Samaritan Care Hospice San Antonio, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2008	Hospice Nurse	Bethany Hospice San Antonio, Texas
04/08 - Present	Hospice Nurse	Amedisys Hospice Services San Antonio, Texas

6. On February 9, 2010, Respondent was issued an Agreed Order by the Texas Board of Nursing which required her to participate and successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Agreed Order dated February 9, 2010, is attached and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
7. On or about May 10, 2010, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on February 9, 2010 by the Texas Board of Nursing. Non-compliance is the result of Respondent's failure to sign and execute the TPAPN participation agreement within ninety (90) days of the entry of the Agreed Order. Stipulation Number One (1) of the Agreed Order dated February 9, 2010 states in pertinent part that:

RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) day 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...

On June 1, 2010, Respondent was dismissed from TPAPN and referred to the Board.

8. Respondent states March 25, 2008 as date of sobriety.
9. 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.
10. Charges were filed on July 28, 2010.
12. Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 29, 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 a violations of Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(9)&(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 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, heretofore issued to MELISSA MUECKE, including revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, previously issued to MELISSA MUECKE, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED and said suspension is ENFORCED until Respondent completes a treatment program approved by the Board, provides documentation of successful completion, and has obtained twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety. Any relapse prior to the completion of the twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety will result in an extension of the enforced suspension until such twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety and additional treatment have been attained.

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 the Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact 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, upon verification of successful completion of the approved treatment and twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety as set out in this Order, the Suspension will be STAYED, and RESPONDENT will be placed on PROBATION for three (3) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

(1) 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay all re-registration fees, if applicable, and RESPONDENT'S licensure status in the State of Texas will be updated to reflect the applicable conditions outlined herein.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of the suspension being stayed, 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, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR THREE (3) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH THIRTY-SIX (36) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation conditions on RESPONDENT'S license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision made by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(6) For the first year of employment as a nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and

predetermined unit(s). The RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(7) For the remainder of the probation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising nurse is not required to be on the same unit or ward as RESPONDENT, but should be on the facility grounds and readily available to provide assistance and intervention if necessary. The supervising nurse shall have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the Respondent is currently working. RESPONDENT SHALL work only regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be employed by a nurse registry, temporary nurse employment agency, hospice, or home health agency. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT be self-employed or contract for services. Multiple employers are prohibited.

(8) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse on the night shift, rotate shifts, work overtime, accept on-call assignments, or be used for coverage on any unit other than the identified, predetermined unit(s) to which Respondent is regularly assigned for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(9) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice as a nurse in any critical care area for one (1) year of employment as a nurse. Critical care areas include, but are not limited to, intensive care units, emergency rooms, operating rooms, telemetry units, recovery rooms, and labor and delivery units.

(10) RESPONDENT SHALL NOT administer or have any contact with controlled substances, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

(11) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENT'S capability to practice nursing. These reports shall be completed by the nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) months for three (3) years of employment as a nurse.

(12) RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the consumption of alcohol, Nubain, Stadol, Dalgan, Ultram, or other synthetic opiates, and/or the use of controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to an evaluation by a Board approved physician specializing in Pain Management or Psychiatry. The performing evaluator will submit a written report to the Board's office, including results of the evaluation, clinical indications for the prescriptions, and recommendations for on-going treatment within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.

(13) RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for controlled substances, tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram), and alcohol. For the first three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per week. For the next three (3) month period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month. For the next six (6) month period, random screens shall be performed at least once per month. For the remainder of the probation period, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) months. All random screens

SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board.

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the probation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the probation period.

Any positive result for which the nurse does not have a valid prescription or failure to report for a drug screen, which may be considered the same as a positive result, will be regarded as non-compliance with the terms of this Order and may subject the nurse to further disciplinary action including EMERGENCY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

(14) RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a "professional counselor" possessing credentials approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice professional nursing. The report must

indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. Such reports are to be furnished each and every month for three (3) months. If therapy is recommended for beyond three (3) months, the reports shall then be required at the end of each three (3) month period for the duration of the probation period, or until RESPONDENT is dismissed from therapy.

(15) RESPONDENT SHALL attend at least two (2) support group meetings each week, one of which must be for substance abuse and provided by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or another comparable recovery program that has been pre-approved by the Board. RESPONDENT SHALL provide acceptable evidence of attendance. Acceptable evidence shall consist of a written record of at least: the date of each meeting; the name of each group attended; and the signature and printed name of the chairperson of each group attended by RESPONDENT. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the required evidence on the forms provided by the Board at the end of every three (3) months. No duplications, copies, third party signatures, or any other substitutions will be accepted as evidence.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

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 violation 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

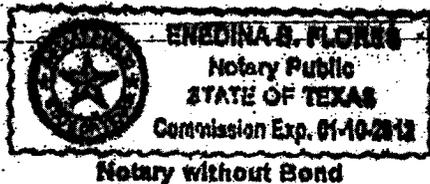
Signed this 14 day of September, 2010.



MELISSA MUECKE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of September, 2010.

SEAL

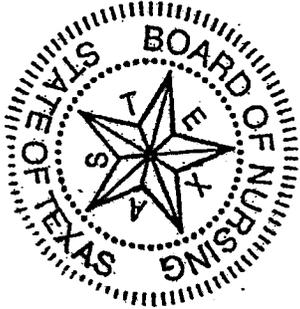




Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 14th day of September, 2010, by MELISSA MUECKE, Registered Nurse License Number 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, and said Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of October, 2010.



Katherine A. Thomas

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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 675904 and Vocational §
Nurse License Number 162377 §
issued to MELISSA MUECKE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MELISSA MUECKE, Registered Nurse License Number 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on March 10, 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 and holds a license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas which is inactive.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on March 27, 1997 and received a Diploma in Nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, Texas, on June 1, 2000. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on April 25, 1997 and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas in February 27, 2001.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/97 - 06/01	LVN/RN Charge Nurse	Baptist Health System San Antonio, Texas
06/01 - 12/01	RN Charge Nurse	Southwest General Hospital San Antonio, Texas
11/01 - 02/02	RN Charge Nurse	Nix Behavioral Health San Antonio, Texas
02/02 - 05/02	RN Staff Nurse	Coastal Plastic Surgery Clear Lake, Texas
06/02 - 12/04	Case Manager Asst. Director of Nurses	Southwest Texas Home Health Bridge City, Texas
01/05 - 04/05	Field RN/Case Manager	Nursing Resource Home Health Port Arthur, Texas
05/05 - 09/05	RN Staff Nurse	Office of Ben Kurtis, MD Port Arthur, Texas
09/05 - 02/06	Field RN/Case Manager	Beaumont Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
03/06 - 09/06	Asst. Director of Nurses Case Manager	Beaumont Care Home Health San Antonio, Texas
10/06 - 03/07	RN Staff Nurse Telemetry/Med-Surg	Methodist Healthcare San Antonio, Texas
03/07 - 07/07	RN Case Manager	Millennium Home Health San Antonio, Texas
08/07 - 10/07	RN Case Manager	Outreach Health Services San Antonio, Texas
11/07 - 01/08	RN Case Manager	Samaritan Care Hospice San Antonio, Texas
03/25/08 - 04/11/08	RN Case Manager	Samaritan Care Hospice San Antonio, Texas
02/08 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as an RN Case Manager with Outreach Health Services, Balcones Heights, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) months.
7. On or about November 6, 2007, while employed with Outreach Health Services, Balcones Heights, Texas, Respondent misappropriated a laptop computer belonging to the agency. Respondent ceased communication with the agency on November 6, 2007, however she failed to return the computer. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility of two thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars (\$2334), which was the cost of the computer.
8. On or about March 25, 2008, while applying for employment with Samaritan Care Hospice, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent submitted a specimen for a pre-employment drug screen which resulted positive for Butalbital and Cocaine. Possession of Butalbital and Cocaine is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Butalbital and Cocaine by a 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, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that she left Outreach Health Services in November 2007 due to illness and subsequently had four (4) surgeries from December through April. Her son was kidnapped in June and returned in July. Her father passed away in August 2007 and through all of it she forgot to return the computer. The company had filed criminal charges and those are still pending in court. Regarding the drug screen Respondent states that she had a prescription for Butalbital which she denies taking during work hours. She admits that she used cocaine but never during work hours.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. Charges were filed on January 2, 2009.
13. Charges were mailed to Respondent on January 7, 2009.
14. Respondent's conduct described in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8) was significantly influenced by Respondent's impairment by dependency on chemicals.
15. 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), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(G)&(10)(A)(D).
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 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, heretofore issued to MELISSA MUECKE, 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 MELISSA MUECKE, 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.

(5) IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT be convicted of or receive a deferred order for the offense as outlined in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), said judicial action will result in further disciplinary action including Revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

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 licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

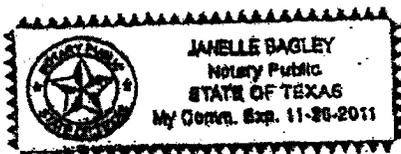
Signed this 3 day of February, 2010.

Melissa Mubcke
MELISSA MUBCKE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of February, 2010.

SEAL

Janelle Bagley
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 3rd day of February, 2010, by MELISSA MUECKE, Registered Nurse License Number 675904 and Vocational Nurse License Number 162377, and said Order is final.



Entered and effective this 9th day of February, 2010.



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