



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.  
*Patricia A. Plummer*  
Executive Director of the Board

DOCKET NUMBER 507-14-2573

IN THE MATTER OF  
PERMANENT CERTIFICATE  
NUMBER 203935,  
ISSUED TO  
ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH

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BEFORE THE STATE OFFICE  
OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH  
15101 BLUE ASH DR. #1706  
HOUSTON, TX 77090

TOMMY L. BROYLES  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
300 WEST 15TH STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

At the regularly scheduled public meeting on October 23-24, 2014, the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) considered the following items: (1) Order Number 2, *Dismissing Case*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter; (2) Staff's recommendation that the Board revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license by default; and (3) Respondent's recommendation to the Board regarding the above cited matter, if any.

On June 5, 2014, the ALJ convened a hearing on the merits in this matter. Staff of the Board was present for the hearing. However, the Respondent was not present at the hearing, and no one appeared on her behalf. During the hearing on June 5, 2014, Staff introduced evidence into the record demonstrating that Respondent had been sent a Notice of Hearing by first class certified mail return receipt requested to her last known address of record maintained by the Board in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.10(a). The ALJ found that Staff's notice was adequate and issued Order No. 2, granting Staff's Motion for Default and dismissing the case from the docket of SOAH and remanding it to the Board for informal disposition on a default basis in accordance with the Government Code §2001.056.

The Board, after review and due consideration of Order Number 2, *Dismissing Case*, issued by the ALJ in the above cited matter, finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with the Government Code §2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Occupations Code Chapter 301 (Nursing Practice Act) for retention of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas. The Board further finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with the Occupations Code §301.458. The Board further finds that proper and timely notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in accordance with the requirements of the Government Code §2001.051 and §2001.052 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. The Board further finds that the Respondent failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 213 and 1 Tex. Admin. Code §155.501. As a result of the Respondent's failure to appear, the Board

has determined that the factual allegations listed in the Formal Charges are to be deemed admitted by default and the Board is authorized to enter a default order against the Respondent pursuant to the Government Code §2001.056 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.22. Further, the Board has determined that it is entitled to revoke the Respondent's vocational nursing license pursuant to 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.33(m).

Therefore, the Board hereby adopts the factual allegations, which have been deemed admitted, and the conclusions of law contained in the Formal Charges, which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes, and Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing in accordance with the Government Code Chapter 2001 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code §213.23(l), as applicable. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order. All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED THAT Permanent Certificate Number 203935, previously issued to ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

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~~IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.~~

FURTHER, pursuant to the Occupations Code §301.467, RESPONDENT is not eligible to petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order. Further, upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT must satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

Entered this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

  
KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges

In the Matter of § BEFORE THE TEXAS  
Permanent Vocational Nurse §  
License Number 203935 §  
Issued to ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, §  
Respondent § BOARD OF NURSING

### FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 203935, which is in current status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

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#### CHARGE I.

On or about October 1, 2013, Respondent submitted two (2) fraudulent letters of recommendation to the Texas Board of Nursing as part of her request for an exception to an Agreed Order issued to her by the Board on May 10, 2011. The letters were presented as being from professors at Prairie View A&M University College of Nursing, Houston, Texas. Respondent's conduct was deceiving to the Board.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMN. CODE §217.12(6)(A)&(6)(H).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33 and TEX. OCC. CODE Ch. 53. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

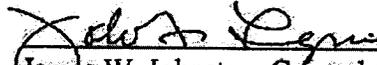
NOTICE IS GIVEN that to the extent applicable, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on Adopted Disciplinary Guidelines for Criminal Conduct and on Adopted Disciplinary Sanction Policies for Lying and Falsification, and for Fraud, Theft and Deception, which can be found at the Board's website, [www.bon.texas.gov](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, which can be found at [www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html](http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html).

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order dated May 10, 2011, and Order dated November 20, 2013.

Filed this 31st day of January, 20 14.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



James W. Johnston, General Counsel  
Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24036103

Lance Robert Brenton, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24066924

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24079751

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 50511847

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State Bar No. 00785533

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333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P: (512) 305-6811  
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Attachments: Order of the Board dated May 10, 2011, and Order of the Board dated November 20, 2013.

D/2013.11.19



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse  
License Number 203935  
issued to ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH

§ AGREED  
§  
§ ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, Vocational Nurse License Number 203935, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 8, 2011, 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 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 Sidney N. Collier School, New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 22, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 9, 2006.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history is unknown.

6. On or about March 23, 2009, Respondent was arrested by the Texas Highway Patrol Reg 2 Dist C of Conroe, Texas for, THEFT PROP >=\$1500 <\$20K (a State Jail Felony offense committed on September 1, 2006). On or about January 6, 2011, the charge was dismissed for the reason: Defendant successfully completed all the terms of her pre-trial diversion contract, in the 155<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Waller County, Texas, under Cause No. 12864.
7. In response to Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states: In August 2005, following hurricane Katrina, Respondent applied for emergency food and received them until April 2007. In March 2008, Respondent was told she owed about \$700 in over payment and that she needed to speak with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. After speaking with the DA, she was informed that there would be no prosecution for this amount, just repayment. In March 2009, Respondent was pulled over for speeding and found out there was a warrant for her arrest due to this charge. The charges were upgraded to the amount of \$1900 and charges were filed.

#### 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 of Section 301.452(b)(3)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (13)
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 203935, heretofore issued to ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, 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 WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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.

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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>*

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 STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. ~~THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:~~

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(3) 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.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Vocational 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.

(5) 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 Registered Nurse or Licensed Vocational 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) month period for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

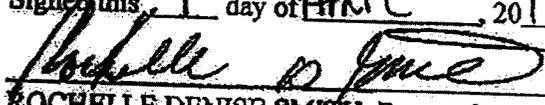
IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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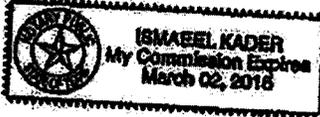
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

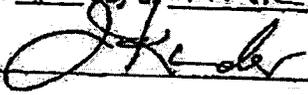
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and 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 4 day of APRIL, 2011.  
  
ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of APRIL, 2011.

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 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011, by ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, Vocational Nurse License Number 203935, and said Order is final.

Effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011.



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of  
Vocational Nurse License Number 203935  
issued to ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH,  
PETITIONER for Exception

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ORDER REGARDING PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION

A public meeting of the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee of the Board, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, was held on at 333 Guadalupe, Tower 3, Suite 460, Austin, Texas, to consider the Petition for Exception and supporting documents filed by ROCHELLE DENISE SMITH, hereinafter referred to as PETITIONER.

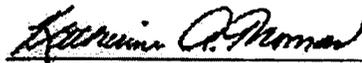
PETITIONER appeared in person.

Board Members in attendance were: Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; and Nina Almasy, MSN, RN. Staff present were: Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director; James W. Johnston, General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, Director, Enforcement Division; Earl E. Stearns, CFE, Supervising Investigator; Maggie Ortiz, RN, Investigator; Carolyn Hudson, Investigator; and Andrea Gonzalez, Legal Secretary.

After review and due consideration of the filed Petition, the Committee voted to conditionally approve the Petitioner's request, with conditions that Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director of the Board, receive satisfactory information from Prairie View A&M University that would justify a change in the supervision requirements of the May 10, 2011, Agreed Order.

Following the meeting of the Committee, the Executive Director received information from Prairie View A&M University that did not support a change in the supervision requirements of the May 10, 2011, Agreed Order. Therefore, the petition for exception to the May 10, 2011, Agreed Order is DENIED.

Entered this 20th day of November, 2013.



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

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