

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson #1051
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230

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IN THE MATTER OF

RENEE THOMAS

License No. 23-32575-102

FILED #747
DEC 26 2012 pet.

Case No. 11-930-5

KSBN

**FINAL ORDER
AND CONSENT AGREEMENT**

NOW ON THIS 12th day of December, 2012, the Kansas State Board of

Nursing, represented by Assistant Attorney General, Alma A. Heckler, and the Respondent, Renee Thomas, hereby enter into this agreement and proffer evidence and the Presiding Officer adopts those recommendations and makes the following findings of fact and orders:

AGREED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is not licensed to practice nursing in Kansas, her license lapsed on or about 10/31/ 2010. Respondent filed a reinstatement application on or about February 2, 2011. The Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter of this action.
2. Respondent's address of record is 3516 S. Osage, Wichita, Kansas 67217.
3. The Respondent understands that pursuant to K.S.A. 77-515, respondent may be represented at respondent's expense by, an attorney during these proceedings.
4. Respondent acknowledges that this agreement is an open record pursuant to the Kansas Open Records Act, K.S.A 45-215 et seq., and may be published or disseminated notwithstanding any state or federal law otherwise restricting public access to, or dissemination of, any personal or health care information, or any information or records of substance abuse evaluation and/or treatment contained herein.

5. After an investigation, the Board's investigative committee found reasonable grounds to believe that the respondent violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act, K.S.A. 65-1120, and referred this matter for further proceedings.

6. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 et seq. to examine, license and renew license for duly qualified applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.

7. (a) Applicant filed a reinstatement application on February 2, 2012.

(b) Applicant let her nursing license in Kansas lapse on or about 10/31/2010.

(c) Applicant reported that she had previously submitted certified copies of all prior misdemeanor criminal convictions and letters of explanation. A record check revealed that she had failed to do so.

(d) Applicant submitted certified copies of convictions, payment of fines and letters of explanation but did not complete the task until approximately one year after submission of her reinstatement application.

(e) Applicant previously failed to report all convictions and suspensions of her driver's license. After notification by the Board she reported a a 5/13/1998 misdemeanor criminal conviction of marijuana possession; a 1997 conviction of illegal tag, no seat belt, transporting an open container and no proof of insurance; a 1997 conviction of petty theft; 1/19/99 no proof of insurance, illegal tag and driving on a suspended drivers license; applicant's drivers license was suspended in 1/1998, 7/1998, 1/1999, 6/2000, 1/2001 and 4/2001; and her drivers license was revoked in 2/1999, 1/2000 and 10/2001. She was given a warning letter telling her to report these suspensions and convictions on all future applications and to report any future convictions or suspensions.

VIOLATIONS

8. The above incidents are violations of the nurse practice act. The Respondent agrees that the board is prepared to prove that respondent has violated:

(a) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(1), to be guilty of fraud and deceit in practicing nursing or in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing.

(b) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(8), to have a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a practical nurse denied, revoked, limited or suspended, or to be publicly or privately censured, by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country.

(c) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(2), to have been guilty of a ...misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense unless the applicant or licensee establishes sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the public trust....

9. Respondent has the right to a hearing with evidence and witnesses and to seek review of the findings from that hearing in accordance with the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act and the Act for Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement of agency actions. Respondent is waiving those rights and voluntarily entering into this agreement instead of proceeding to such a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

10. The Kansas State Board of Nursing has the authority under K.S.A. 74-1106 et seq. to examine, license and renew license for duly qualified applicants and may limit, deny, suspend or revoke a license or authorization to practice nursing, may issue a public or private censure and levy administrative fines consistent with K.S.A. 74-1110, if a violation of K.S.A. 65-1120 is established.

11. Respondent has violated the Kansas Nurse Practice Act as follows:

(a) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(1), to be guilty of fraud and deceit in practicing nursing or in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing. .

(b) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(8), to have a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a practical nurse denied, revoked, limited or suspended, or to be publicly or privately censured, by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country.

(c) K.S.A. 65-1120(a)(2), to have been guilty of a ...misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense unless the applicant or licensee establishes sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the public trust....

POLICY STATEMENT

12. The role of the Kansas State Board of Nursing is to protect citizens of Kansas.

DISPOSITION

13. By entering into this Consent Agreement and consenting to the entry of the Final Order, both parties waive their right to full administrative proceedings pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1120 and K.S.A.77-501 et seq. and to judicial review.

14. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that this Final Order and Consent Agreement will continue through any renewal periods of respondent's nursing license until respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement. Further, the parties agree that in the event of a lapse of Respondent's nursing license, reinstatement of Respondent's nursing license shall be contingent upon this Final Order and Consent Agreement remaining in effect until Respondent completes each of the conditions and requirements of this agreement.

15. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that the Respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas is immediately suspended. The suspension will be stayed as long as the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met.

16. Based upon this agreement, and pursuant to the disciplinary remedies available in K.S.A. 65-1120, the parties agree that the Respondent's license to practice nursing in Kansas is immediately limited. The limitations placed on the license and described below will remain in place until the requirements and conditions of this agreement are met or until the requirements and conditions of this agreement call for the modification of the limitations.

17. The Kansas State Board of Nursing will grant a nursing license to the respondent as stated in item (b) below and not take additional disciplinary action against respondent's nursing

license for the violations stated above as long as respondent completes each of the following conditions and requirements:

(a) Respondent shall return any paper license cards still in her possession to the Board with this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Respondent shall receive a license which when verified by the public will show an "S" to indicate that the license is suspended with a Stay. The license will have limitations on the practice, indicated by and "L".

(b) Respondent shall enroll in the Kansas Nurse Assistance Program within thirty (30) days of the date she signs this Agreement and will continue to participate in and complete the reasonable recommendations and requirements of the Kansas Nurse Assistance Program (KNAP); sign releases of information necessary for KNAP to evaluate and monitor respondent and for KNAP to report information to the Board, the Attorney General's office, and Office of Administrative Hearings. **Respondent's nursing license will be activated and approved upon the Legal Division of the Board receiving a letter from KNAP indicating the respondent has successfully complied with all the recommendations and requirements of KNAP for a period of 90 days.** Respondent will be deemed to have successfully completed the KNAP program when KNAP issues written notification that respondent has completed the program. Noncompliance with KNAP is a violation of this agreement.

(c) Respondent must submit to random drug screens as determined or selected by the Board or by KNAP. The costs of the drug screens will be paid by the respondent. Respondent agrees that a Positive Drug Screen is a violation of this agreement.

(d) Respondent shall have a narcotic key restriction on respondent's license imposed, consistent with her contract with KNAP.

(e) Respondent shall immediately notify the Legal Division of any use of alcohol, if prohibited by KNAP, or controlled substances, or any violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(f) The respondent shall immediately inform all employers and prospective employers of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

(g) The Respondent shall only work in nursing positions where she is supervised on site by an RN at all times.

(h) Respondent shall not work as a director of nursing or in a charge or supervising position while these restrictions on her license continue.

(i) Respondent will submit Reports from the respondent's employer to the attention of the Legal Division, Kansas State Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230 on the following schedule:

If the Respondent is unemployed, prior to respondent securing employment that utilizes his or her nursing license, respondent is to mail to the Kansas State Board of Nursing a statement indicating that respondent has not yet secured employment which utilizes respondent's nursing license. This statement is due by the 10th day of each month beginning the next month after signing this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

Once respondent is licensed and accepts employment in a position that utilizes his or her nursing license, a nursing performance report is due by the 10th day of January, April, July and October of 2013, until respondent has caused the submission of four (4) separate nursing performance reports.

The report shall be prepared and signed by respondent's immediate supervisor, an R.N. who evaluates respondent's performance on a regular basis and be based on the following guidelines:

- (1) Incorporation of information on **facility letterhead stationary** is preferred.
- (2) Letter format is acceptable, with the date of the report identified.
- (3) Evaluator's name, telephone number, address, license number and nursing credentials.
- (4) Respondent's name, address, telephone number, license number.

(5) A short explanation of the respondent's work performance in the following areas:

- (a) Standards met regarding facility policies and procedures.
- (b) Compliance with the Kansas Nurse Practice Act.
- (c) Supervisor evaluations.
- (d) Overall appropriateness.
- (e) Interactions with patients.
- (f) Interactions with staff and administration.

Respondent will cause the Reports to be sent to the attention of the Legal Division, Kansas State Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 1051, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1230. These reports are in addition to the reports sent to KNAP.

(j) Respondent shall send a money order for \$70 to the Board upon entering into this agreement to pay the cost of this action.

(k) Respondent shall not violate the Kansas Nurse Practice Act during the duration of this agreement.

(l) Respondent shall not violate the laws of the United States, of State, or of any political subdivision of any State during the term of this agreement. Traffic infractions shall not be considered violations of the law.

(m) The respondent will complete The following Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) within ninety days of the effective date of this Agreement:

2 hours on the Kansas Nurse Practice Act (which may be accessed through the Via Christi web site at www.via-christi.org/cne or call 316-268-8551).

Respondent shall not use these hours to meet the CNE requirements of any renewal period.

(n) Respondent agrees to notify the Legal Division of any changes in address and phone number as well as all employment terminations or employer changes or additions. All such notifications shall be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of such a change.

18. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that Respondent is responsible for the costs related to satisfying the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Respondent further acknowledges and agrees that to provide the Board with false information regarding compliance with this Final Order and Consent Agreement is a violation of this Final Order and Consent Agreement.

19. If respondent does not meet these conditions and requirements, the Kansas State Board of Nursing may request additional sanctions against Respondent's license or application for a license. Respondent would be sent notice of such action and would be entitled to a hearing as to whether Respondent had complied with this Final Order and Consent Agreement, but Respondent could not contest the violations listed in this agreement.

20. All parties understand that if an action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is filed, K.S.A. 77-531 requires the Notice of Hearing to be served upon the respondent and the respondent's attorney of record, if any. All parties agree that serving the Notice of Hearing upon the respondent will be proper service and it is the respondent's responsibility to contact his or her attorney, if any, in reference to the action.

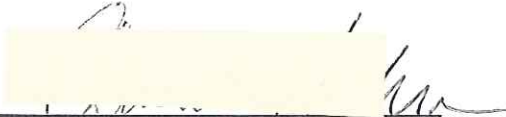
21. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that if any action based on failure to meet the conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement is filed during the term of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, or within 30 days after the expiration date, the conditions of this Final Order and Consent Agreement shall continue in effect until the Board or a hearing/presiding officer designated pursuant to K.S.A. 77-514 and K.S.A. 77-526, rules on the action.


22. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a first finding of Respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Stay of Suspension of respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas, shall be lifted for a period of six months from the date of said finding. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.

23. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon a second or subsequent finding of respondent not complying with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement the Stay of Suspension of respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Kansas, shall be lifted for a period of one year from the date of said finding. Respondent will not be allowed to practice nursing in the state of Kansas during the period of suspension. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement remain in effect during the period of suspension.

24. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that upon the Stay of Suspension being lifted due to a finding of non-compliance with any of the conditions or requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement, the Suspension will not again be Stayed until the Respondent has, following the prescribed time period of suspension, provided written verification to the Board that Respondent is in compliance and has remained in compliance during the period of suspension, with all conditions and requirements of this Final Order and Consent Agreement. Upon the Respondent providing said written verification the suspension will again be stayed.

25. The Board will inactivate this case file once respondent satisfies this agreement. This agreement does not prohibit the agency from taking disciplinary action against Respondent's license for any additional or cumulative violation of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act committed by the Respondent before or after this agreement is entered into.


Alma A. Heckler, # 11555
Assistant Attorney General
Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson #1051
Topeka, KS 66612


Sandra Sharon, Presiding Officer

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-527, either party may request a review of this final order by filing a petition for reconsideration with the Kansas State Board of Nursing. A petition for reconsideration must be filed with 15 days from the date this final order was served. Failure to timely request a reconsideration by the Kansas State Board of Nursing may preclude further judicial review. The petition for reconsideration shall be mailed or personally delivered to: Mary Blubaugh, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, Landon State Office Building, Suite 1051, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612-1230.


Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-531, if the final order is served by mail, three days are added to the time limits set out above.

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-530, if a request for reconsideration is not requested in the time and manner stated above, this initial order shall become effective as a final order 30 days after service.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the 26th day of December, 2012, I mailed a copy of this FINAL ORDER AND CONSENT AGREEMENT to:

Renee Thomas
3516 S. Osage
Wichita, Kansas 67217


Alma A. Heckler, #11555
Assistant Attorney General
Kansas State Board of Nursing
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson #1051
Topeka, KS 66612