

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

22 FE 0104-JP11

COPY

Joe Benavides

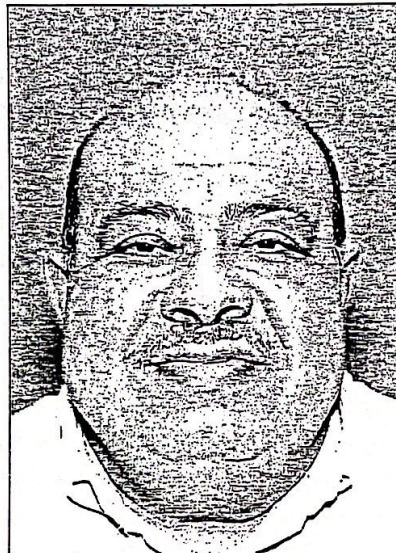
Bonds: \$50,000.00 JJB

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, PERSONALLY APPEARED THE AFFIANT HEREIN, A PEACE OFFICER UNDER THE LAWS OF TEXAS, WHO, BEING DULY SWORN, ON OATH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

My name is **Patrick O'Connor** and I am commissioned as a peace officer by **Texas Rangers Company "D", Department of Public Safety**. I hereby state upon my oath that I have reason to believe and do believe and hereby charge and accuse the suspected party, identified below, and committed the offense of **General Authority of Physician to Delegate, in violation of Texas Occupations Code 165.152 Subtitle B, Section 157.001 (a)(1)(C)(2), a 3rd Degree Felony**.

SUSPECTED PARTY



ADEL SHAKER

DATE OF BIRTH: 01/16/1960

I, Company D Texas Ranger Patrick O'Connor, was assigned an investigation involving the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office. I learned the following information from Nueces County District Attorney's Office Investigator Dana Richardson, who is a certified and licensed Texas Peace Officer employed as a Nueces County District Attorney's Office Investigator:

On 01/03/2022, Corpus Christi Police Department Officers responded to [REDACTED] Drive Corpus Christi, Texas 78415 due to an emergency call that [REDACTED]

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

[REDACTED] was not breathing. [REDACTED] was transported to the hospital where she was later declared deceased. [REDACTED] body was taken to the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy. Corpus Christi Police Department Detective Jason Smith was assigned as the lead investigator on the death investigation. Detective Smith later received a preliminary autopsy report from Nueces County Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Sandra Lyden who conducted the autopsy. I reviewed Dr. Lyden's preliminary autopsy report ME#22-018 involving decedent [REDACTED]. Dr. Lyden's name was listed on the cover page but no signature was present. Dr. Lyden's medical opinion was that [REDACTED] died as a result of blunt force injuries based off of various observations during the autopsy. Detective Smith later had a conversation with Dr. Lyden about her diagnosis. Detective Smith reportedly felt that Dr. Lyden did not provide a satisfactory explanation for her medical opinion and sought advice from the Nueces County District Attorney's Office.

Investigator Richardson also told me that a second autopsy was ordered on [REDACTED] body. The second autopsy was conducted by Dr. Satish Chundru in Georgetown, Texas who reported that [REDACTED] died of natural causes.

Further, I learned from Investigator Richardson that the Nueces County District Attorney's Office contacted The Texas Medical Board who confirmed that Dr. Sandra Lyden does not have a license to practice Medicine on file in the State of Texas. The Texas Medical Board reported that Dr. Lyden does not have an approved Emergency Visiting Practitioner Temporary Permit sponsored by Nueces County Medical Examiner Adel Shaker on file in the State of Texas. The Texas Medical Board produced Dr. Lyden's medical file containing her application for licensure in Texas. I noted that Dr. Lyden completed an application that was sent electronically to the Texas Medical Board. I observed that the Texas Medical Board had a section related to disclosure of the applicant's criminal history. A disclosure on the government document stated, "Matters in which you were diverted, deferred, pardoned, or pled nolo contendere must be disclosed." The government record was very clear that all arrests must be disclosed. I observed that Dr. Lyden answered the following questions on the Texas Medical Board application, a government record:

Have you ever been arrested? Answer: "N"

Have you ever been charged with a violation of the law regardless of outcome (unless the offense involved alcohol or drugs, you may exclude)? Answer: "N"

Have you ever been placed on probation? Answer: "N"

Have you ever been granted deferred adjudication or any other type of pretrial diversion (unless the offense involved alcohol or drugs, you may exclude)? Answer "N"

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

Have you ever been convicted of an offense or imprisoned? Answer: "N"

Have your federal or State controlled substance permits ever been revoked, restricted or denied? Answer "N"

I understood that Dr. Lyden lied on the Texas Medical Board medical license application by writing 'No' to the above questions. I learned through investigation that Dr. Lyden had been arrested and convicted of two criminal offenses in Florida within the past five years. The offenses involved substance abuse during a Driving Under the Influence crash, leaving the scene of the crash and then crashing again in a neighboring county. I learned from Florida Court records that Dr. Lyden was placed on probation for 9 months. I learned through investigation that The Drug Enforcement Administration previously interviewed Dr. Lyden while she was practicing medicine in Hawaii. Dr. Lyden admitted abusing prescription medication and was forced to surrender her prescription certificate permit. The Texas Medical Board flagged the false entries on Dr. Lyden's application for a medical license, a government record. I later conducted an interview with Dr. Lyden who indicated that she was not fully honest on the Texas Medical Board application.

On 01/14/2022, Investigator Richardson, pursuant to a search warrant, seized 30 autopsy reports bearing Dr. Sandra Lyden's name from the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office. Investigator Richardson also seized Dr. Lyden's personnel file, a duplicate file bearing [REDACTED] name and a file containing a cremation report signed by Dr. Lyden. I observed the files and noted that Dr. Lyden conducted autopsies and post mortem examinations with diagnosis of cause and manner of deaths on the following dates (practice of medicine without a Texas medical license), 12/06/2021, 12/07/2021, 12/08/2021, 12/09/2021, 12/13/2021, 12/14/2021, 12/15/2021, 12/16/2021, 12/17/2021, 12/29/2021, 12/30/2021, 01/03/2022, 01/07/2022, 01/08/2022, 01/12/2022 (a total of 15 days)

Investigator Richardson went through each file and advised me of the following information: Sandra Lyden represented herself to the public as a medical doctor and a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner as indicated by her signature on numerous documents in the autopsy files. Dr. Adel Shaker never signed any of the autopsy files next to Sandra Lyden's name or signatures. Dr. Sandra Lyden signed her name as the Medical Examiner on twenty-nine Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office cause of death worksheets. Sandra Lyden signed (Sandra Lyden, M.D. Deputy Chief Medical Examiner) on three postmortem examination reports. Sandra Lyden documented the cause and manner of death of each decedent on approximately twenty Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office cause of death worksheets that she signed as the medical

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

examiner. Sandra Lyden signed the cremation reports for approximately twenty decedents.

On 03/23/2022, I interviewed Edinburg Police Department Officer Albert Alvarez who advised me the following information: Officer Alvarez attended an autopsy conducted by Dr. Lyden on 12/09/2022. Dr. Sandra Lyden actively communicated the cause and manner of death for a decedent from Hidalgo County for the purpose of assisting Officers with determination of criminal charges. Detective Alvarez stated that Dr. Shaker may have walked into the autopsy room at one point but Dr. Lyden was the only doctor that performed the autopsy. Officer Alvarez assumed that Dr. Lyden was capable and qualified to practice medicine legally by the way she presented herself and the medical procedures she conducted on the decedent.

On 03/25/2022, I spoke with Corpus Christi Police Department Detective Jason Smith who advised me of the following information: Detective Smith met with Dr. Lyden during the investigation into ~~_____~~ death. Dr. Lyden provided specific information that she ruled the death a homicide due to specific injuries she stated that she observed. Dr. Adel Shaker was present for a portion of the meeting with Dr. Lyden and Detective Smith. Dr. Shaker stated that he reviewed Dr. Lyden's findings and concurred with her diagnosis.

On 02/03/2022 and 03/03/2022, I interviewed Dr. Sandra Lyden who advised me of the following information: Dr. Lyden first read about the position of Nueces County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner online. Dr. Lyden contacted Dr. Adel Shaker and began talking to him about the position. Dr. Lyden told Dr. Shaker that she did not have a license to practice medicine in the State of Texas prior to employment. Dr. Lyden stated that she told Dr. Shaker she did not have a license and had "weekly" conversations with Dr. Shaker about the status of her medical license application up till the date she was terminated. Dr. Lyden stated that she was in the application process for a Texas Medical License. Dr. Shaker stated that he was in dire need of a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Lyden told Dr. Shaker that she would not come unless she was guaranteed employment because she was going to use the last of her savings to move to Texas. Dr. Shaker advised her to just go ahead and move to Texas because he was going to get Dr. Lyden employment. Dr. Lyden used the last of her money to move to Texas and started working as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in December of 2021. Dr. Lyden stated that she wasn't allowed to sign off on any final autopsy paperwork. I knew this was not true due to one final autopsy report that was signed by Dr. Lyden. Dr. Lyden later admitted to me that she was not fully honest on the Texas Medical Board paperwork. I showed Dr. Lyden three copies of handwritten documents authored

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

and signed by Dr. Shaker. The documents stated that Dr. Shaker was told by Dr. Lyden that she had a valid medical license in Texas. Dr. Lyden instantly became surprised and stated, "That is a lie, that is forged!" Dr. Lyden was adamant that Dr. Shaker was lying and that he knew from the beginning that she did not have a license to practice medicine in Texas. Dr. Lyden stated there was email evidence that Dr. Shaker knew she didn't have a license because he was trying to help her get licensure. Dr. Lyden stated that Dr. Shaker and Alex Medina called her into a meeting the day before Dr. Lyden met with Investigator Smith on the ~~autopsy~~ autopsy. Dr. Shaker and Alex Medina told Dr. Lyden to lie by stating that Dr. Lyden performed the autopsy without Dr. Shaker's assistance.

On 02/11/2022, I interviewed Nueces County Director of Human Resources Julie Guerra who advised me of the following information: Guerra stated that Dr. Shaker hired Dr. Sandra Lyden as the Nueces County Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. Human resources was tasked with regulatory functions such as a criminal history check, driver's license verification, and drug screening etc. Guerra stated that she believed Dr. Lyden was licensed to practice medicine in Texas due to an email she received. Guerra could not remember when the email was sent or who sent it. Dr. Shaker employed Dr. Lyden as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and later terminated her from the position.

I observed numerous government documents, emails and text messages related to Dr. Lyden's employment and her alleged Texas Medical Certificate. I observed the following information:

On 08/10/2021, Dr. Lyden sent an email titled "Deputy Medical Examiner" to Medical Examiner Administrator Alex Medina. Dr. Lyden discussed aspects of the hiring process with Medina. Dr. Lyden later wrote, "Also, will a DUI cause any problems? It was 2016 and it was a seizure not a DUI." Dr. Lyden further stated that she should have appealed the charges but I know from court records that Dr. Lyden plead guilty and was unable to appeal.

On 08/30/2021, Medical Examiner Administrator Alex Medina sent Dr. Lyden an email and carbon copied Dr. Shaker and Julie Guerra. The email stated, "Good Morning Dr. Lyden. Hope all is well. I was just advised by Dr. Shaker that you have obtained your temporary license to practice in Texas. I am so happy that-all worked out."

On 08/31/2021, Nueces County Human Resources Director Julie Guerra sent Dr. Lyden a letter that stated Dr. Lyden has been made an offer of employment as the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. The employment was "contingent upon successfully passing a drug screening and obtaining her license to practice medicine in Texas."

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

On 09/21/2021, Dr. Lyden sent an email titled "Update" to Dr. Shaker. Dr. Lyden wrote that she was still in the application process for a Texas Medical License but did not have an approved temporary or full license yet.

On 09/22/2021, Dr. Lyden sent an email titled "Re: Provisional license" to Dr. Shaker. Dr. Lyden wrote, "TMB is dragging their feet. I do not think they make a distinction between a temporary and a permanent license. And at the rate, it will be Jan-Feb before I get there."

On 10/04/2021, Dr. Lyden sent an email titled "Help!! Urgent!" to Alex Medina and carbon copied Dr. Shaker. Dr. Lyden stated that she was having numerous problems with the application process for her Texas Medical License (clearly indicating that she was not licensed to practice medicine by the Texas Medical Board). Dr. Lyden wrote, "I am seriously afraid I am going to lose this job and the house." Alex Medina responded with, "I apologize ma'am, however I am not sure as to how I can help. Hope it works out." Nueces County Human Resources Director Julie Guerra later responded with, "Sandy, what is it that you still need help with? Let me know, Maybe I can help." Dr. Lyden responded by making it clear that she did not have a Texas Medical License but would continue the process. Dr. Lyden further wrote, "Please, still hire me", "the TMB says the temporary affidavit is useless as far as issuing a temp license. Hopefully, the provisional license will work but I read they require fingerprints." Dr. Shaker responded to the email string and advised, "No worries at all; we are waiting for your start date seen." Dr. Shaker wrote about Dr. Lyden's medical board application and indicated that he understood she did not have any valid Texas Medical License.

On 10/07/2021, Dr. Shaker sent an email titled "RE: Temp emergency license" to Dr. Lyden and carbon copied Minerva Rios, Alex Medina and Julie Guerra. Dr. Shaker wrote, "Will do everything to help you and assist in issuing your medical license!" Attached was a signed emergency visiting practitioner temporary permit. Julie Guerra sent an email stating that she would place the email and temporary permit in Dr. Lyden's HR file.

On 10/25/2021, Dr. Lyden sent an email titled "Re: status" to Alex Medina. Dr. Lyden wrote, "I do not understand why they cannot just issue me a temporary license though. I hope Dr. Shaker does not give up on me." On 11/18/2021, Alex Medina emailed Dr. Lyden back and asked, "Have you received your Texas license yet?" Medina stated that they were eager for Dr. Lyden to start and said for Dr. Lyden to "Please let us know

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF NUECES

where you are on this." Dr. Lyden responded by stating that she was still in the application process and indicated that she did not have a Texas medical license.

On 12/06/2021, Dr. Shaker wrote a hand written note that stated, "Dr. Lyden informed me that she has her temporary Emergency Permit to practice in Tx." The letter was signed by Dr. Shaker.

On 12/09/2021, Dr. Shaker wrote a hand written note that stated, "I was told that she has received her temporary provisional license # 490579 and the permanent license will be mailed soon." The letter was signed by Dr. Shaker. I know from previous experience that all Texas Medical Licenses and doctors can be queried by anyone in the public and checked on the Texas Medical Board website. I checked # 490579 on the Texas Medical Board website and noted that the number did not come back with any information.

On 12/10/2021, Dr. Lyden sent a text message to her friend that stated, "I did. It came Sunday. Been busy all week, left alone for the most part. Already doing homicide cases by myself."

On 12/18/2021, Dr. Lyden sent a text message to Dr. Shaker that stated, "Alex is asking me for my license. I am trying to stall. Michael and I are working next Thursday just to keep things from piling up."

On 01/03/2022, Dr. Shaker wrote a hand written note that stated, "I asked Dr. Lyden about her license and she said it has been mailed to FL. Address and her mother will mail (Forward to TX). She added the delay because of holiday season." The letter was signed by Dr. Shaker.

On 01/14/2022, Dr. Shaker sent a signed termination letter to Dr. Lyden.

On 01/25/2022, Dr. Shaker wrote and email to County Attorney Jenny Dorsey and carbon copied his defense attorney Chris Gale. Dr. Shaker wrote, "Dr. Lyden, when hired, I was under the impression she had a temporary/emergency license to practice".

I thought it was very strange that Doctor Shaker would write himself three hand written notes all stating that Dr. Lyden had a valid medical license on 12/06/2021, 12/09/2021 and 01/03/2022. I also thought it was strange that all three notes were attached to an email sent by Alex Medina to a private attorney, Tonya Webber, well after it came to light that Dr. Lyden never possessed a valid Texas Medical license. I believed that Dr.

THE STATE OF TEXAS

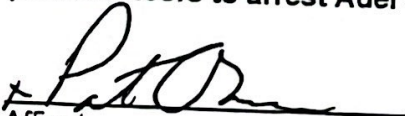
COUNTY OF NUECES

Shaker knew Dr. Lyden never had a valid medical license. Dr. Lyden stated that she had weekly conversations with Dr. Shaker about not having a medical license. Dr. Lyden sent a text message to Dr. Shaker stating that she would continue to "stall" providing a copy of her license. Numerous email correspondence to and from Dr. Shaker discussing that Dr. Lyden did not have a Texas Medical License were discovered. I also believe that Dr. Shaker, Alex Medina and Julie Guerra knew that Dr. Lyden did not have a Texas Medical License due to the fact that she was hired and employed for 40 days (15 days which autopsies were conducted by Dr. Lyden) with no medical license on file at the Nueces County Medical Examiner's Office or at Nueces County Human Resources. A Texas Medical License is public information and can be queried online at any time. I believe that Medical Examiner Administrator Alex Medina and Nueces County Human Resources Director Julie Guerra knew that Dr. Lyden did not have a valid Texas Medical license due to the above emails.

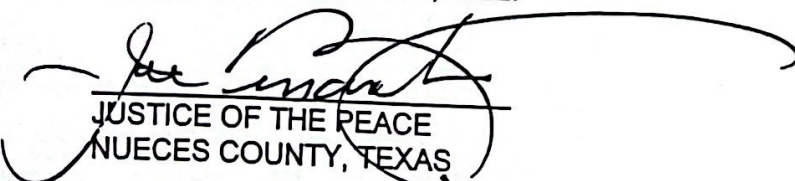
Ranger O'Connor believes that Adel Shaker did then and there delegate authority of a physician to Sandra Lyden knowing that the act was in violation of another statute (practicing medicine without a license OCC 165.152) and knowing that Dr. Lyden represented herself to the public by signing government documents as The Deputy Chief Medical Examiner and meeting with individuals outside the Medical Examiner's Office to provide diagnosis by way of cause and manner of death.

Affiant has probable cause for said belief by reason of the facts and circumstances listed above.

Wherefore, affiant asks for issuance of a warrant that will authorize affiant and other peace officers to arrest Adel Shaker DOB: 01/16/1960 where ever he may be found.


Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME BY THE SAID AFFIANT ON THIS THE
12th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.


JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

JOE BENAVIDES
PRINTED NAME