



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.  
*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse           §        AGREED  
License Number 621202                       §  
issued to JAMES D. LONG                   §        ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JAMES D. LONG, Registered Nurse License Number 621202, herein referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 10, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Amarillo College, Amarillo, Texas, on July 1, 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 1, 1995.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

8/1995-9/1996

RN  
St. Anthony Hospital  
Amarillo, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

9/1996-5/1997	RN Caprock Home Health Amarillo, Texas
11/1996-4/1999	RN Indian Health Services Amarillo, Texas
4/1999-8/2000	RN Baptist St. Anthony Hospital Amarillo, Texas
9/2000-6/2001	RN Amarillo Nursing Center Amarillo, Texas
6/2001-9/2007	RN Northwest Texas Hospital Amarillo, Texas
9/2006-6/2007	RN Northwest Texas Rehab Hospital Amarillo, Texas
6/2007-10/2007	RN High Plains Rehab Hospital Amarillo, Texas
10/2007-5/2009	RN Golden Plains Community Hospital Borger, Texas
5/2009-present	RN Plum Creek Specialty Hospital Amarillo, Texas
6/2009-present	RN Northwest Texas Rehab Hospital Amarillo, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a RN with Plum Creek Specialty Hospital, Amarillo, Texas, and had been in this position for eleven (11) months.

7. On or about May 27, 2010, while employed with Plum Creek Specialty Hospital, Amarillo, Texas, Respondent failed to assess Patient Medical Record Number 2000006, following a thoracentesis procedure, a procedure that is done by inserting a needle through the patient's ribs into the space between the patient's lung and chest wall ( the pleural space) to remove excess fluid. When the physician arrived at the patient's bedside, at 3:30 p.m., the Respondent assisted while the physician carried out the procedure that removed 1700cc's of fluid from the patient's pleural space, making it easier for the patient to breath. Respondent failed to assess the patient or intervene following the procedure and made no further entries in the patient's medical record. At 7:00 p.m. that evening the patient was discovered by the oncoming nurse to be with out pulse and respirations. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to risk of harm from a delay of interventions which may have contributed to the patient's death.
  
8. On or about August 7, 2010, while employed with Plum Creek Specialty Hospital, Amarillo, Texas, Respondent failed to conduct a comprehensive nursing assessment of Patient Medical Record Number 2000334 when the patient had significant decline in his medical condition. Respondent failed to document in the patient's medical record or report to the patient's physician the signs and symptoms the patient was exhibiting which included a decreased heart rate, decrease in blood pressure and a steady decrease in body temperature. The patient was found, by the oncoming nurse, to have a core temperature of 91 degrees. The physician was notified and interventions were started to raise the patient's core temperature but those efforts failed and the patient died. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to risk of harm from medical complications as a result of a delay in interventions which may have contributed to the patient's death.
  
9. In response to the Findings of Fact Number Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that he assumed care of the patient at 7:00 a.m. on May 27, 2010, completed his assessment at 7:30 a.m. and that the patient was alert and oriented with an oxygen saturation greater than 90% with oxygen at 3l/nc and that the patient was checked on often and frequently. Respondent states that the patient remained orientated throughout the day and the assessment never changed. Respondent states that when the physician arrived at 3:30 p.m., he assisted with the patient's thoracentesis procedure, which took about 45 minutes to complete. Respondent states that the patient was reassessed at 4:30 p.m., and at that time the patient's right lung was clear and his left lung had scattered rales and rhonchi. Respondent states that the respiratory therapist arrived and gave the patient a treatment at approximately 5:30 p.m. and an x-ray technician was with the patient at around 6:20 p.m. Respondent states the patient was found at change of shift, 7:00 p.m., without pulse and respirations. In regard to Patient Number 20003334, Respondent states that he did document in the medical record interventions and vital signs every hour as ordered by the physician. Respondent states the CNA took the patient's temperature and documented it on a flow sheet per facility policy and that the patient's other vital signs were taken by the bedside cardiac monitor. The cardiac monitor was set up to record vital signs every hour. Respondent states the only change in the patient's condition was the narrowing pressures and these were pointed out to the physician's nurse practitioner when she rounded early that afternoon.

### 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(D),(1)(M), &(3)(A) and 22 (1)(P) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C)&(4).
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 621202, heretofore issued to JAMES D. LONG, 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 REPRIMAND 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.

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>.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in physical assessment. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in a clinical setting for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. The

clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of physical assessment only and shall be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. To be approved, the course shall cover all systems of the body. Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course to satisfy this stipulation. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office 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>*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in "Professional Accountability & Legal Liability for Nurses," a 5.4 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding this workshop may be found at the following web address: <http://learningext.com/hives/f4e2615223/summary>.*

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," a 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension. In order to receive credit for completion of this program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding this workshop may be found at the following web address: <http://learningext.com/hives/a0f6f3e8a0/summary>.*

**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 TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) 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 STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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(s). 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

(7) 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.

(8) 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 professional 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.

(9) For the remainder of the stipulation 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.

(10) 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 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 two (2) years 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 violations 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.

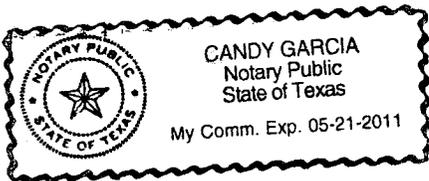
Signed this 27 day of April, 2011.

James Long  
JAMES D. LONG, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27 day of April, 2011.

Candy Garcia  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

SEAL



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011, by JAMES D. LONG, Registered Nurse License Number 621202, and said Order is final.

Effective this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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