

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 Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 533177 and §
Vocational Nurse License Number 63372 §
issued to CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT, Registered Nurse License Number 533177 and Vocational Nurse License Number 63372, hereinafter 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 informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on March 23, 2010, 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 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. Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Community School of Vocational Nursing Hospital, Houston, Texas, on September 26, 1974; and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Houston Community College, Houston, Texas, on June 1, 1986. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 19, 1975; and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 22, 1986.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1975 - 1978	LVN Staff Nurse	Doctor's Hospital Houston, Texas
1978 - 1986	LVN Charge Nurse	York Plaza Hospital Houston, Texas
1987 - 1998	RN Assistant Head Nurse Intensive Care Unit (ICU)	Methodist Hospital Houston, Texas
1987 - 2000	Staff/Charge Nurse Intermediate Care Unit	Methodist Hospital Houston, Texas
2000 - 2007	Staff/Charge Nurse Neuro ICU	Methodist Hospital Houston, Texas
2007 - Present	Staff/Charge Nurse	Cleveland Regional Medical Center Cleveland, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff/Charge Nurse in the Neuro ICU with Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for five (5) years.

7. On or about April 17, 2007, while employed as a Staff Nurse in the Neuro ICU with Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to document the administration of medications in the medical record of Patient Medical Record Number 022792808, as follows:

DATE	TIME	PHYSICIAN'S ORDER	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORD
4/17/07	2100	FAMOTIDIEN (PEPCID) 20 MG PO EVERY 12 HOURS	NO DOCUMENTATION
"	"	METOPROLOL (LOPRESSOR) 25 MG PO EVERY 12 HOURS	"
"	2200	CEFAZOLIN (ANCEF) 1000 MG IV EVERY 8 HOURS	"
"	"	PHENYTOIN (DILANTIN) 100 MG IV EVERY 8 HOURS	"

Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete, inaccurate medical record, and may have exposed the patient to injury in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation in order to provide further patient care.

8. On or about April 17, 2007, while employed as a Staff Nurse in the Neuro ICU with Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to administer 80 units of Insulin Human NPH, an intermediate-acting Insulin, at 2100, as ordered, to aforementioned patient. Instead, Respondent made the decision to "hold" the Insulin because the patient's blood sugar was 89, and failed to notify the physician of her decision. Additionally, Respondent failed to document on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) that the medication was being held. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete, inaccurate medical record, and was likely to injure the patient in that failure to administer a scheduled dose of Insulin could result in the patient experiencing adverse reactions including, but not limited to hyperglycemia.
9. On or about April 17, 2007, while employed as a Staff Nurse in the Neuro ICU with Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to provide adequate care for Patient Medical Record Number 014888101 in that she mistakenly documented initiating a Phenylephrine drip instead of a Norepinephrine drip, as ordered. At 2000, Respondent documents a blood pressure reading of 99/55, then at 2015, she documented a blood pressure reading of 183/69 without documenting what was occurring at the time. On the patient's Intake and Output Record for April 17, 2007, at 06:01 to April 18, 2007, at 06:00, there is documentation that the patient received 75 cc of Norepinephrine 32 mg/ D5W 250 ml and 40 cc of Phenylephrine/Neo-Synephrine 25 mg/ NS 250 ml with no times being documented. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete, inaccurate medical record, and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to provide further patient care.
10. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent admits that she "forgot" to document the administration of some of the medications and also admits that she "held" the dose of Insulin because the patient's blood glucose reading was 89. However, in regards to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Nine(9), Respondent denies the allegations.

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)(C),(1)(D)(1)(P)&(3)(A) 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 533177 and Vocational Nurse License Number 63372, heretofore issued to CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT, 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 RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION 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 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 is 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 State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of ratification of this Order.

(2) 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in medication administration. 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. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course shall contain a minimum twenty-four (24) hour clinical component which is to be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. In order for the course to be approved, the course's content shall include: a review of proper

administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the five (5) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. 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>.

(4) 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>.

(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://ncsbn.hivelive.com/hives/a0f6f3e8a0/summary>.*

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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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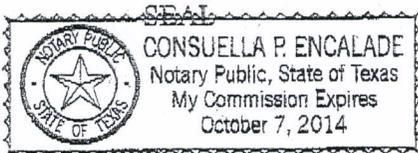
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 23 day of MAY, 2011.

Carolyn K. Elliott
CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 day of MAY, 2011.



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Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

Approved as to form.

Elizabeth Higginbotham

Elizabeth Higginbotham, RN, JD, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 11th day of May, 2011.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 23rd day of May, 2011, by CAROLYN K. ELLIOTT, Registered Nurse License Number 533177 and Vocational Nurse License Number 63372, and said Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of May, 2011.



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

