BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse	§	AGREED
License Number 243079 and	§	
Vocational Nurse License Number 33229	§	
issued to HELEN M. COLLINS	§	ORDER

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.
Executive Director of the Board

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that HELEN M. COLLINS, Registered Nurse License Number 243079 and Vocational Nurse License Number 33229, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may have violated Section 301.452 (b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on October 5, 2010, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Elizabeth L. Higginbotham, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, Director of Nursing, Executive Director's Designee; Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Board Member, who recused herself; Nikki Hopkins, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Kathy Duncan, RN, Investigator; Toni Frizell, RN, CNOR, Investigator; and J. L. Skylar Caddell, RN-BC, Legal Nurse Investigator.

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 notice and hearing, and consented 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 currently in "delinquent" status.

4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Houston Vocational Nursing Program, Houston, Texas, on September 24, 1965, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Alvin Junior College, Alvin, Texas, on May 1, 1978. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 28, 1965, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 1, 1978.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

10/1965 - 12/1995	Unknown	
1/1996 - 3/1992	Assistant Director of Nursing	Riverside General Hospital Houston, Texas
4/1992 - 3/1993	Unknown	
4/1993 - 5/1996	Home Health Nurse	Columbia Home Health (f. k. a. Continu-Care) Houston, Texas
5/1996 - 5/1999	Director of Nursing	Coastal Medical Services Houston, Texas
6/1999 - 4/2001	Staff Nurse	The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Texas City, Texas
11/1999 - Unknown	Staff Nurse	Visiting Nurses Association Baytown, Texas
7/2001 - 1/2004	Field Nurse, Part-Time	Coastal Medical Services Houston, Texas
9/2002 - 8/2003	Director of Nursing	Texas Serenity Home Care Houston, Texas
4/2003	Contract Nurse	South Side Home Health Houston, Texas
8/2003 - 11/2003	Director of Nursing	Royal Home Health Services Houston, Texas
11/2003 - Unknown	Alternate Director of Nursing	Royal Home Health Services Houston, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1/2004 - 5/2004	Field Nurse, Full-Time	Coastal Medical Services Houston, Texas
6/2004 - 10/2004	Supervisory Nurse	Coastal Medical Services Houston, Texas
10/2004 - 4/2006	Alternate Director of Nursing	Coastal Medical Services Houston, Texas
5/2006 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as the Alternate Director of Nursing with Coastal Medical Services, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and two (2) months.

7. On or about December 29, 2005, while employed as the Alternate Director of Nursing with Coastal Medical Services, Houston, Texas, Respondent mistakenly documented a late entry in the medical record of Client AW indicating that she performed Supervisory Visit of Attendant NC on February 19, 2003, when Respondent actually completed an Orientation Visit of Attendant MC on that date. Attendant NC, who was the client's niece and lived in the same house, did not complete an application for employment with, and was not hired by, Coastal Medical Services, Houston, Texas, until February 25, 2003. Respondent documented the date of the Supervisory Visit as a "late entry" while the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (TDADS) was investigating the death of Client AW, who died on January 29, 2004. Respondent's conduct may have resulted in an inaccurate medical record.

8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she mistakenly marked the box "Supervisory Visit," instead of "Attendant Orientation," while completing the orientation during her client visit, and that she added the date as a late entry addition at the suggestion of one of the TDADS surveyors.

9. Formal Charges were filed on September 21, 2009.

10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on September 22, 2009.

11. On or about March 27, 2010, Respondent successfully completed a Board approved course in Texas Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics, which would have been a requirement of this Order.

12. On or about July 16, 2010, Respondent successfully completed a Board approved course in Nursing Documentation, which would have been a requirement of this Order.

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)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(D) and 217.12(1)(C).

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 243079 and Vocational Nurse License Number 33229, heretofore issued to HELEN M. COLLINS, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION WITH A FINE, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, 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(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 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.*

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

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 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 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 4 day of November, 2010.

Helen M. Collins

HELEN M. COLLINS, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of November, 2010.

SEAL

Vorris E Locks

Notary Public in and for the State of Tx

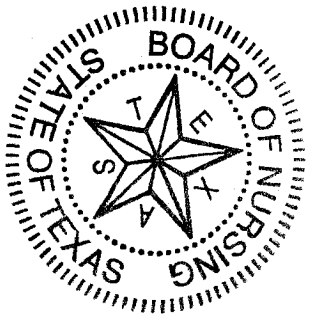
NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF TEXAS
Vorris E Locks
My Commission Expires
02/09/2011

Approved as to form ~~and substance~~.

Elizabeth L. Higginbotham, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 27th day of October, 2010.

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 4th day of November, 2010, by HELEN M. COLLINS, Registered Nurse License Number 243079 and Vocational Nurse License Number 33229, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of November, 2010.

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