



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 590509 §  
issued to GRETCHEN RUTH THACKER § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of GRETCHEN RUTH THACKER, Registered Nurse License Number 590509, 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on May 5, 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 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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Northeast Missouri State University, Kirksville, Missouri on May 1, 1987. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on April 2, 1993.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/1987-04/1989	Unknown
05/1989-02/1993	Staff Nurse/1st. Lieutenant United States Air Force San Antonio, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2/1993-11/1995	Charge Nurse Women's & Children's Hospital San Antonio, Texas
11/1995-01/1996	Unknown
01/1996-08/1998	Vocational Nurse Instructor Vernon Regional College Vernon, Texas
6/1998-07/2000	Staff Nurse United Health Care System Wichita Falls, Texas
07/2000-10/2000	Not employed in nursing
10/2000-6/2002	Agency Nurse Altru Health Care System Grand Forks, North Dakota
6/2002-Present	Pediatric Nurse Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital San Antonio, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately four (4) years and six (6) months.
7. On or about May 22, 2007, while employed with Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to obtain consent from newborn Patient MR# W01239401's mother prior to feeding her "baby formula." Additionally, Respondent fed newborn Patient MR# W01239401 baby formula despite the fact that the mother explicitly requested that her child be breast fed only. Respondent's conduct was a violation of the patient's rights and deprived Patient MR# W01239401's family of the right to make decisions regarding their newborn's health care needs.

8. In response to Finding of Fact Numbers Seven (7), Respondent states that when she assessed Patient MR# W01239401, she was jaundiced and had not been feeding well. Respondent adds that she encouraged the Patient's mother to breast feed the child and to keep track of the newborn's intake and output. Respondent reports that she took the patient to be examined by a physician in another room, and the physician ordered that Patient MR# W01239401's feeding be supplemented with "baby formula." Respondent admits to feeding the Patient "baby formula" as ordered. Respondent adds that Patient MR# W01239401's mother was informed of the "baby formula" feeding after she returned the newborn to her. Respondent states that she later informed Patient MR# W01239401's parents, who were upset, that the physician had ordered the baby formula supplement to help treat said patient's jaundice and to prevent dehydration.

### 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, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(1)(F),(N),(P), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B)& 6(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 590509, heretofore issued to GRETCHEN RUTH THACKER, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional 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 A FINE, 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, 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 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>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars. 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 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.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

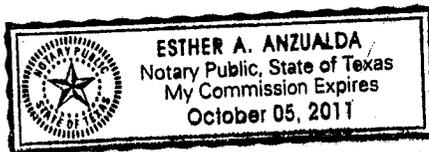
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 29 day of July, 2010.  
Gretchen Ruth Thacker  
GRETCHEN RUTH THACKER, Respondent

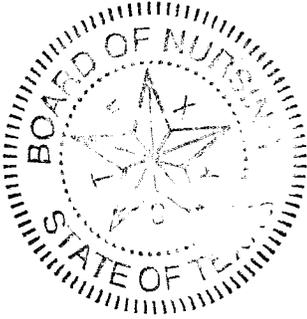
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010.

SEAL

Esther Anzalda  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



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 29th day of July, 2010, by GRETCHEN RUTH THACKER, Registered Nurse License Number 590509, and said Order is final.



Effective this 4th day of August, 2010.

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