

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
 License Number 728461, issue to §
 COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE § ORDER



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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, Registered Nurse License Number 728461, 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 May 5, 2010, 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.
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.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, on April 21, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 13, 2006.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| 05/06 - 02/08 | Staff Nurse SICU | Parkland Health & Hospital System Dallas, Texas |
| 03/08 - Present | Unknown | |

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and nine (9) months.
7. On or about December 18, 2007, while employed with Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, Texas, failed to accurately and completely document the status and nursing care she provided to Patient Medical Record Number 2159397, including the blood glucose results and tube feeding. Respondent falsely documented a blood glucose reading of 118 at 1600 for Patient Medical Record Number 2159397. That result of the blood glucose documented could not be verified on any glucometer in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) for that day on any patient. In addition, Respondent documented that the patient continued to receive Replete at 75cc/hr after the patient's feeding tube had been removed. A blood sugar of 58 was found on a glucometer at 1538 that had Respondent's Log-in ID number on it which was not documented in the medical record. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm in that subsequent care givers relied on the accuracy of the information while providing care to the patient.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that "I was accused by Parkland of making up a bedside glucose value of 118 at 1600 and documenting that value when the glucometer said that someone other than me checked the patient's glucose at that time and the glucometer reading was 58. I was also accused of writing in the nurses' notes that the patient was receiving 75cc/hr of Replete between the hours of 1300-1900 when my flowsheet also said the patient was extubated and that OGT was removed at 1305. Quite simply, I documented a blood sugar of 118 because that is what I understood to be correct. I did not take the blood sugar reading for this patient at 1600. The unit policy was that a nurse or tech or anyone who has completed the "Point of Care Testing" can check bedside glucose. Unit techs usually take bedside glucose reading for nurses who are taking care of two critical patients. I recall that I had the unit tech check the blood glucose at 1600 for me because I was busy with two patients. This is evidenced by the 1600 bedside glucometer reading having someone else's employee ID number. I asked the tech what the bedside glucose was and I recorded 118 because that is what I was told. It is possible there could have been a communication breakdown and I could have heard wrong, but I recorded that value I believed to be correct. . . The things I can attest that absolutely did not happen are that I was made aware of low blood sugar reading (58) failed to treat the low blood sugar and them for no reason, contemporaneously recorded a value I knew to be false. . . I did pull the feeding tube (OGT) at 1305 along with the breathing tube, but I had placed a new feeding tube (DHT) immediately thereafter as ordered by Dr. Stoos at 1405. However, the patient did not receive parenteral nutrition because the DHT would not be checked or cleared for use until four (4) hours after placement according to Parkland protocol and according to the physician orders received at 1405 . . . I erroneously continued to document 75cc/hr of Replete based on habit. . . I simply forgot to stop recording the TF Replete. . ."

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)(A)&(D) and 217.12(1)(B) &(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 728461, heretofore issued to COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, 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 a WARNING 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 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 deliver the wallet-sized license issued to COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from 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 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 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>.*

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500). 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, 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 ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) 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. 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. 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 duration 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.

(9) 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 one (1) year 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 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 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 to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 24th day of May, 2010.

[Handwritten Signature]

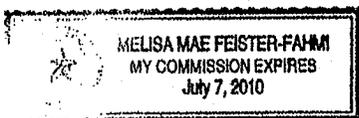
COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of May, 2010.

Melisa Mae Feister Fahm

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

SEAL



Approved as to form and substance.

Jeffrey F. Wood, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

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 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 to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

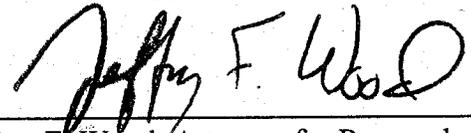
COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, Respondent

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

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

Approved as to form and substance.



Jeffrey F. Wood, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 24th day of May, 2010.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 24th day of May, 2010, by COURTNEY RHIANNON PRINGLE, Registered Nurse License Number 728461, and said Order is final.



Effective this 22nd day of July, 2010.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Katherine A. Thomas', is written over a horizontal line.

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