

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 711701 §
issued to RAJEENA VARGHESE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo considered the matter of RAJEENA VARGHESE, Registered Nurse License Number 711' 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 6, 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 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 Diploma in Nursing from Bombay Nurses Training Institute, Bombay Hospital, Maharashtra, India, on December 28, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on December 9, 2004.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

12/1994 - 11/1997	Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse	Bombay Hospital and Medical Research Center Mumbai, India
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

11/1997 - 2/2000	Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse	Al Salama Hospital Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
3/2000 - 7/2003	Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse Acting Director of MSICU	King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
8/2003 - 8/2004	Unknown	
9/2004 - 9/2007	Staff Nurse	Woodland Heights Medical Center Lufkin, Texas
10/2007 - 3/2009	Staff Nurse	South West Regional Medical Center Location unknown
4/2009 - Present	Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse	Spring Branch Medical Center Houston, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse with Spring Branch Medical Center, Houston, Texas, and had been in this position for five (5) months.
7. On or about September 13, 2009, while employed as a Charge Nurse/Staff Nurse with Spring Branch Medical Center, Houston, Texas, Respondent administered Succinylcholine, a paralytic, to Patient MS, who was conscious one minute before administration of the sedative, Versed, as ordered by the physician. Respondent's conduct was likely to cause injury to the patient in that the patient was awake and cognizant of the inability to breath, move, or communicate after the administration of the paralytic and prior to the administration of the sedative, which caused the patient to experience unnecessary fear and anxiety.
8. Respondent admits to the conduct described in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7). Respondent reports that when she arrived in the room, the emergency physician had decided to intubate the patient and ordered Succinylcholine 150mg and Versed 6mg intravenously (IV). Respondent states she picked up the vial of Succinylcholine and asked the physician to verify the dose, however, there was no Versed in the intubation box, so she asked another nurse to obtain the medication. Respondent states she administered the Succinylcholine IV, flushed the line, and administered Versed less than a minute later. Respondent states the physician did not specifically order the Versed to be given prior to the Succinylcholine so she gave the medication that was available at the bedside. Additionally, Respondent asserts that

it doesn't matter which one is given first as long as they are given close together.

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, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(B)&(1)(C) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §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 711701, heretofore issued to RAJEENA VARGHESE, 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, 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 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>.

(3) 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, 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:

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

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 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.

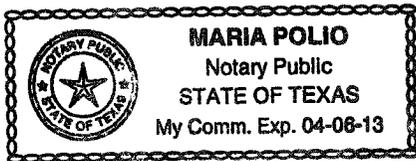
Signed this 12 day of June, 2010.

Rajeena Varghese
RAJEENA VARGHESE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of June, 2010.

SEAL

[Signature]
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas.



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 12th day of June, 2010, by RAJEENA VARGHESE, Registered Nurse License Number 711701, 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