



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

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 221060 §
issued to BRENDA A. LARKINS § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of BRENDA A. LARKINS, Registered Nurse License Number 2210 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 attended mediation on June 4, 2008, represented by Ken Lewis and Elizabeth Higginbotham, RN, Attorneys at Law, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on June 4, 2008, 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 conference, 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 Hotel Dieu School of Nursing, Beaumont, Texas, in June 1967. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 17, 1967.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1967 - 1973	Staff Nurse	Beaumont Neurological Center Beaumont, Texas
1973 - 1975	Staff Nurse	Angie Nall's School of Learning Disabilities, Beaumont, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1975 - 1981	Staff Nurse	Scheslinger's Geriatric Center Beaumont, Texas
04/1981 - 05/1995	Clinic Nurse Manager	City of Beaumont Health Department Beaumont, Texas
05/1995 - 08/2002	Tuberculosis Nurse Manager	Texas Department of Health Beaumont, Texas
09/2002 - 10/2003	Unknown	
11/2003 - 04/2005	Correctional Facility Staff Nurse	Correctional Services Corporation Jefferson County Detention Center Beaumont, Texas
05/2005 - 02/2007	Correctional Facility Staff Nurse	The University of Texas Medical Branch, Correctional Managed Care (UTMB-CMC), Galveston, Texas assigned to Texas Department of Criminal Justice Plane State Jail, Dayton, Texas
03/2007 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Correctional Facility Staff Nurse with UTMB-CMC, Galveston, Texas, assigned to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Plane State Jail, Dayton, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and five (5) months. Respondent's evaluations were good and scored as "consistently meets expectations."

7. On or about October 25, 2006, while employed as a Correctional Facility Staff Nurse with UTMB-CMC, Galveston, Texas, and assigned to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Plane State Jail, Dayton, Texas, Respondent failed to perform a comprehensive assessment after Inmate Number 1358391 complained of inability to retain food, the inability to move her legs and the inability to see. Respondent failed to take the inmate's vital signs and scheduled the provider to see the inmate the next morning. Four hours later, the inmate indicated to correctional officers that she might be having a stroke, and the next morning the inmate was emergently transferred to an acute care facility and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit after it was determined that she was suffering from Hypertensive Emergency and Altered Level of Consciousness. The inmate was later diagnosed as suffering from Fungal Meningitis and died three (3) days later. Respondent's conduct may have delayed intervention and diagnosis of the inmate's disease processes.

8. On or about January 23, 2007, while employed as a Correctional Facility Staff Nurse with UTMB-CMC, Galveston, Texas, Respondent was assigned after hours on-call for Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Plane State Jail, Dayton, Texas. Respondent was notified that an inmate was experiencing chest pain and failed to follow the nursing assessment protocol for the facility for inmates having chest pains. After conversing with the inmate, Respondent determined that the inmate was not emergent and could wait until the following morning to see a provider for evaluation. Respondent realizes that she should have questioned the propriety of accepting the on-call assigned for thousands of inmates as she had not been properly oriented and trained to the on-call procedure (initiated January 19, 2007) and assignment. Approximately six (6) hours later, the inmate was found on the floor and presumed to have fallen from her upper bunk. Shortly thereafter, the inmate was found to be without vital signs, and was pronounced deceased after an unsuccessful attempt at cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to risk of harm.
9. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that although Inmate Number 1358391 said she could not move her legs, the inmate admitted to having gone to the bathroom with the assistance of other inmates. When the inmate complained of not being able to see, Respondent states she held up two (2) fingers and the inmate correctly counted them. And although the inmate said she could not eat, she also admitted that she had been eating commissary food, which inmates must walk to and from the commissary in order to obtain. Regarding Inmate Number 1304171, Respondent states that based upon her phone conversation with the inmate, she determined that the inmate was not emergent and the inmate herself stated that she believed she could wait to be seen by a provider until the next morning. According to Respondent, the inmate was alert and oriented, indicated that she had been eating only a lot of sweets and sodas for the past few days, and was having pain in the middle of her chest as well as indigestion which improved by chewing antacid tablets. The inmate had been complaining of chest pain since January 2, 2007.
10. Respondent states that she was not afforded a peer review in accordance with UTMB-CMC policy.

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)(D), (1)(M),(1)(P),(1)(T)&(3)(A) & 217.12(1)(A),(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 221060, heretofore issued to BRENDA A. LARKINS, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, that RESPONDENT'S license, Registered Nurse License Number 221060, issued to BRENDA A. LARKINS, shall be issued the sanction of a REPRIMAND with Stipulations subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing.

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 §211.01 *et seq.* and this Order.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order, return Registered Nurse License Number 221060, issued to BRENDA A. LARKINS, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing for appropriate notation.

(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) contact 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 Chemical Dependency, 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/about/stipscourses.html>.*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the on-line course "Critical Thinking Skills," offered through the website of the National Council of State Board's of Nursing, www.ncsbn.org. RESPONDENT SHALL submit the Verification of Course Completion form 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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate privileges, if any, to practice nursing in compact states.

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 multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

(4) Prior to employment as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL, successfully complete a course in physical assessment. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. 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.

RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in a clinical setting for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of physical assessment only and shall be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. To be approved, the course shall cover all systems of the body. Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. 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/about/stipscourses.html>.

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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY 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 PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(6) 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 first six (6) months of employment as a nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse. Direct supervision requires another professional nurse to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on regularly assigned, identified and predetermined unit(s). The 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) For the remainder of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse who is on the premises. The supervising RN 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 RN 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.

(10) 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 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, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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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 04 day of June, 2008.

Brenda A. Larkins
BRENDA A. LARKINS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of _____

Approved as to form and substance:

[Signature]

Elizabeth Higginbotham, Attorney for Respondent

06/04/08

Date signed

[Signature]

Kenneth W. (Ken) Lewis, Attorney for Respondent

6/4/08

Date signed

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 4th day of June, 2008, by BRENDA A. LARKINS, Registered Nurse License Number 221060, and said Order is final.

Effective this 17th day of July, 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kath A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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