

IN THE MATTER OF
PERMANENT VOCATIONAL NURSE
LICENSE NUMBER 208898
ISSUED TO
MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD

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BEFORE THE TEXAS
BOARD OF NURSING
ELIGIBILITY AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



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.
Patricia R. Plummer
Executive Director of the Board

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD
11 NIGHT HERON LN
ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on **August 19, 2014**, the Texas Board of Nursing Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter "Committee") heard the above-styled case, based on the failure of the Respondent to appear as required by 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with Texas Government Code § 2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301 of the Texas Occupations Code, for retention of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

The Committee finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with section 301.458, Texas Occupations Code.

The Committee finds that after proper and timely Notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in this matter, Respondent has failed to appear in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that the Board is authorized to enter a default order pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2001.056.

The Committee, after review and due consideration, adopts the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as stated in the Formal Charges which are attached hereto and incorporated by

reference for all purposes and the Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing [22 TEX. ADMIN.CODE § 213.16(j)]. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order.

All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 208898, previously issued to MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

Entered this 19th day of August, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



BY:

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charge filed November 7, 2013.

Re: Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 208898
Issued to MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD
DEFAULT ORDER - REVOKE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the ____ day of _____, 20____, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served and addressed to the following person(s), as follows:

Via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD
11 NIGHT HERON LN
ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656

BY:



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

In the Matter of § BEFORE THE TEXAS
Permanent Vocational Nurse §
License Number 208898 §
Issued to MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR § BOARD OF NURSING
Respondent §

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR, is a Vocational Nurse holding License Number 208898, which is in delinquent status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

CHARGE I.

On or about December 15, 2011, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to him on December 14, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number One (1) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one year (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics....

A copy of the December 14, 2010, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this pleading.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1) &(10), Texas Occupation Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (11)(B).

CHARGE II.

On or about December 15, 2011, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to him on December 14, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number One (1) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one year (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in medication administration....

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1) &(10), Texas Occupation Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (11)(B).

CHARGE III.

On or about December 15, 2011, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to him on December 14, 2010, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Three (3) of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one year (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills"....

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1) &(10), Texas Occupation Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (11)(B).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to Section 301.461, Texas Occupations Code. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

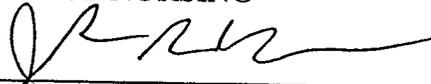
NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, which can be found at www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/discp-matrix.html.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Agreed Order dated December 14, 2010.

Filed this 7 day of November, 2013.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



James W. Johnston, General Counsel
Board Certified - Administrative Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24036103

Lance Robert Brenton, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24066924

John R. Griffith, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 24079751

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 50511847

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel
State Bar No. 00785533

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460

Austin, Texas 78701

P: (512) 305-6811

F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Order of the Board dated December 14, 2010

D/2012.06.19

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED
License Number 208898 §
issued to MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR. § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR., Vocational Nurse License Number 208898, 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 July 13, 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(s).
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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Practical Nursing from Summit Career College, Colton, California, on January 11, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 22, 2007
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

2/06 - 11/06	Staff Nurse	San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital Banning, California
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Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

12/06 - 7/08 Staff Nurse Pflugerville Care Center
Pflugerville, Texas

8/08 - Present Unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Pflugerville Care Center, Pflugerville, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and two (2) months.
7. On or about February 5, 2008, through March 4, 2008, while employed with Pflugerville Care Center, Pflugerville, Texas, Respondent failed to administer and/or incorrectly administered medications to the patients, as follows:

DATE	PATIENT NUMBER	PHYSICIAN'S ORDER	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORD	DOCUMENTATION
2/5/08	25257	Benicar 40 mg i PO daily. Hold if SBP is less than 120, DBP less than 60 or Pulse less than 60.	Medication administered at 0700.	Patient's B/P documented as 114/75.
2/13/08	"	"	"	Patient's B/P documented as 107/65.
2/14/08	"	"	"	Patient's B/P documented as 113/71.
3/4/08	25342	Advair 500/50 i puff BID	No documentation that medications was administered.	None.

Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that failure to administer the medications, as ordered, could result in the patients experiencing adverse reactions including, but not limited to, hypotension and/or upper respiratory infections.

8. In response to the incidents in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent admits to the errors and states that his employer counseled him for them.

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)(C)&(2)(A) and 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 208898, heretofore issued to MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR., including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION, 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(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 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 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

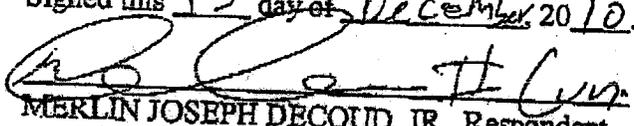
of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion 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, 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.

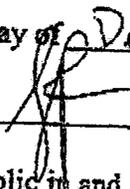
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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

Signed this 13 day of December, 2010.

MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR., Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of December, 2010.

SEAL



Notary Public in and for the State of CA



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 13th day of December, 2010, by MERLIN JOSEPH DECOUD, JR., Vocational Nurse License Number 208898, and said Order is final.



Effective this 14th day of December, 2010.

Katherine A. Thomas

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