BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Vocational Nurse

§ AGREED

License Number 193228

8

issued to ROSA AURORA GARCIA

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of ROSA AURORA GARCIA, Vocational Nurse License Number 193228, 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 October 31, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, 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(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 Vocational Nursing from the YMCA Los Angeles Job Corp Center, Los Angeles, California, on August 25, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on April 20, 2004.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2004- Present

Staff Nurse

Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community

Dallas, Texas

C10

- 6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a vocational nurse with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately four (4) years.
- 7. On or about October 19, 2008, while employed with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to properly manage Patient CC's records in that Respondent admitted, in a written statement submitted to the Board, to "re-copying" her nursing notes upon a directive from said facility's Director of Nursing (DON). Respondent stated that she "re-copied" her nursing notes for October 19, 2008, "a day or two later" in order to include the "best estimate of the times that events occurred." In addition, Respondent stated that she made "a few minor additions" to her first note to "better clarify details of treatment." Respondent failed to preserve her "first" note. Respondent's action may have rendered the medical records for Patient CC unreliable, and may have been intended to deceive or mislead the Texas Board of Nursing and/or any other entity from accurately concluding an investigation into allegations against Respondent or facility.
- 8. On or about October 19, 2008, while employed with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to check and/or failed to document the amount of residual stomach contents for Patient CC prior to administering medications to said patient through his Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastronomy (PEG) tube. Subsequently, the medications Respondent attempted to administer to Patient CC flowed out of his PEG tube and required re-administration. Respondent's failure may have exposed Patient CC to the risk of aspiration.
- 9. On or about October 19, 2008, while employed with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to properly administer medications to Patient CC through his PEG tube in that Respondent did not administer the medication using flow to gravity, as required. Instead, Respondent forcefully injected a total of at least 180 ml of medication using a large syringe with a plunger after she encountered resistance to free flow. Respondent's action may have caused Patient CC to aspirate as a result.
- 10. On or about October 19, 2008, while employed with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to assess and/or intervene when she was informed by Patient CC's family that he had ceased to breathe or exhibit signs of life. Instead, Respondent stated from across the room that said patient had a pulse, and that he was indeed breathing. Respondent's failure may have denied Patient CC of critical care needed to resuscitate him, and may have contributed to his demise.

- 11. On or about October 19, 2008, while employed with Signature Pointe on the Lake Healthcare Community, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to initiate Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for Patient CC who had stopped breathing. Instead, Respondent left the room to notify a physician and failed to return in a timely manner. Subsequently, Patient CC's family, who were visiting him, initiated CPR on said patient. Respondent's failure may have denied Patient CC of critical care needed to resuscitate him, and may have contributed to his demise.
- 12. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Eleven (11), Respondent denies all allegations with the exception of "re-copying" her nursing notes. Respondent states that prior to administering medications to Patient CC, she checked his PEG tube for placement, measured residual stomach contents, and administered the medication. Respondent denies noting any complications at that time. Respondent adds that she had already addressed Patient CC's agitation by administering Ativan to him. Respondent states that when Patient CC exhibited a change of condition, she notified a physician, returned with a the crash cart and two additional nurses for assistance. Respondent reports assuming resuscitation efforts of Patient CC which were already in progress and continued her efforts until Emergency Medical Services(EMS) arrived shortly after.

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)(B),(1)(D), (1)(M), &(1)(P). and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C)&(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 193228, heretofore issued to Rosa Aurora Garcia, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice 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 REPRIMAND 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, while under the terms of this Order, this Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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 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 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/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. Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address: http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/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 STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) OR A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE, AS APPROPRIATE, WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:

- (5) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations conditions on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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 conditions on RESPONDENT'S license(s). 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.
 - (6) 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.

- (7) For the first year of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, 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.
- (8) For the remainder of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Registered Nurse, or by a Licensed Vocational Nurse or a Registered Nurse, if licensed as a Licensed Vocational 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.

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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 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 two (2) year(s) 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(s) 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 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(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 2 day of January, 20 12.

ROSA AURORA GARCIA, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this o

day of January

Notary Public in and for the State of

Effective this 14th day of February, 2012.



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

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igned:				

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