



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

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 181592 §  
issued to DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo considered the matter of DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE, Vocational Nurse License Num... 181592, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on June 20, 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 representation by counsel, informal conference, 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 Grayson County College, Denison, Texas on August 13, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 25, 2001.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:
 

|                  |             |                       |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 09/2001- Unknown | Staff Nurse | Texoma Medical Center |
|                  |             | Texoma, Texas         |

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

|                   |             |   |
|-------------------|-------------|---|
| 03/2003 - 03/2004 | Staff Nurse | D & S Residential<br>Sherman, Texas   |
| 11/2003 - 11/2004 | Staff Nurse | Post Oak Care and Rehabilitation<br>Sherman, Texas  |
| 12/2004 - 03/2005 | Unknown     |   |
| 04/2005 - Unknown | Staff Nurse | Community Specialty Hospital<br>Sherman, Texas  |
| 06/2007 - 10/2007 | Staff Nurse | The University of Texas Medical Branch<br>Correctional Managed Care (UTMB-<br>CMC), Galveston, Texas, assigned to<br>Texas Department of Criminal Justice<br>Stiles Unit, Beaumont, Texas |
| 11/2007 - Present | Unknown     |   |

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with UTMB-CMC, Galveston, Texas, assigned to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Stiles Unit, Beaumont, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) months.
7. On or about August 11, 2007, while employed with UTMB-CMC, Galveston, Texas, assigned to Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Stiles Unit, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately assess and intervene regarding the care of Patient Number 1384375, who had complained of nausea, upper extremity numbness, and a persistent headache that was unrelieved by medication, which are symptoms consistent with possible intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH). Although the patient's Medication Profile was stored electronically and was not in a paper chart for reference during triage, Respondent did not ask the patient about his medications during her assessment. The patient's medical history and ordered medications, including Coumadin, put him at risk for ICH. Instead of immediately referring the patient to a provider, or consulting the Registered Nurse who was readily available, she instructed the patient to submit a sick call request (SCR) to be seen later by a provider. Later, when Respondent received a call from Security that the patient had an episode of vomiting, she did not refer the patient to the provider, but instead instructed Security to have the patient place a cold rag on his face/neck, lie down, try to relax and to return to the clinic if the symptoms did not subside, instructions which she failed to document in the medical record. When Security called again, this time to inform Respondent that the patient had "passed out," she asked Security to assess the patient's condition and waited for Security to report back to her instead of responding herself and immediately going to assess the patient with the appropriate equipment. When Respondent did arrive to care

for the patient, she failed to bring the automated external defibrillator (AED), as required. The patient subsequently became unresponsive and was pronounced deceased later that day. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record, may have unnecessarily delayed medical interventions which could have helped stabilize the patient and/or prevent complications, and may have contributed to the patient's demise.

8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that it is her understanding that all licensed participants involved in the incident have been found without fault and she believes that a memorandum was sent to the Charge Nurse, stating that even though Respondent was still in training, she followed all procedures. Respondent further states that she believes that her record and evaluations speak for themselves, always exemplary, including her ninety-day employment evaluation following the incident.

### 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)&(2)(A) and 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 181592, heretofore issued to DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational 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 this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate licensure privilege, 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

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order 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. Information regarding Board-approved courses in Texas

Nursing Jurisprudence may be found at the Board's website [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us) (on the Disciplinary Action page and on the page "About the Board"/"BON Meetings and Events).

(3) 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>.*

(4) 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>*.

(5) 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://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/critical/ctabout.asp>*.

**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) YEARS 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 VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) 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 first year of employment as a Licensed Vocational Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly supervised by a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Vocational Nurse. Direct supervision requires another professional or vocational 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 or 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. 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 Registered Nurse or Licensed Vocational 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) years 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.



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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

Deborah Suzanne Ridge

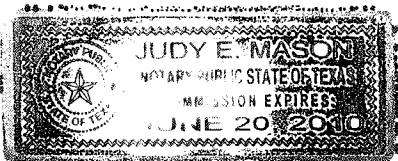
DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

Judy E. Mason

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

SEAL



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008, by DEBORAH SUZANNE RIDGE, Vocational Nurse License Number 181592, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of September, 2008.



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