



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 A. Marana
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Vocational Nurse License Number 209164 §
issued to STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU § ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, Vocational Nurse License Number 209164, may be subject to discipline pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on May 21, 2013, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by John Rivas, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Kristin Benton, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing; Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel; Nicole B. Binkley, BSN, RNC-LRN- Advanced Practice Nurse Consultant; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Skylar Caddell, RN-BC, Nurse Investigator Specialist; Peter Marana, Law Clerk; and Amy Grissom, RN, Investigator.

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 notice and hearing, and consented 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 Best Care Institute, East Orange, New Jersey on September 1, 2005. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 15, 2007.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

4/2007-10/2008	LVN	North Dallas Rehabilitation Hospital Dallas, Texas
11/2007-6/2008	LVN	Balch Spring Nursing Home Balch Spring, Texas
6/2008-8/2008	LVN	Senior Care Dallas, Texas
6/2008-2/2009	LVN	Town East Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center Mesquite, Texas
2/2009-6/2011	LVN	Elim Staffing Dallas, Texas
11/2010-11/2011	LVN	Annex Care Services Dallas, Texas
12/2011-Present	LVN	Pediatric Home Health Care Dallas, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a LVN with Elim Staffing, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) years and one (1) month.
7. On or about March 4, 2011, while employed with Elim Staffing, Dallas, Texas, and assigned to Lifecare Hospitals, Plano, Texas, Respondent administered a Fluconazole (Diflucan) 100 milligram tablet intravenously (IV) to Patient Medical Record Number 303713. Respondent crushed the tablet and mixed it with 10 milliliters of Normal Saline. Respondent drew the crushed Fluconazole tablet and saline into a syringe and administered the mixture IV push. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from administering medications that are intended for oral administration intravenously, which could result in the patient suffering adverse reactions, possibly including death.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she began to administer the Fluconazole as ordered, however, the Fluconazole was prescribed in tablet form, but the patient also had an NPO order, meaning nothing by mouth. Respondent states she gave the patient all her medications intravenously, as confirmed by the patient.
9. Charges were filed on March 8, 2013.
10. Charges were mailed to Respondent on March 13, 2013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(N)&(2)(A).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 209164, heretofore issued to STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU, 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 209164, previously issued to STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of two (2) years with the said suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

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.

(1) 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL within six (6) months of entry of this order successfully complete a nursing refresher course. 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 course's content shall include: 1) the role and scope of the vocational nurse; 2) a review of the nursing process to include focused assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation; 3) pharmacology review; 4) medication administration review for all standard routes of administration; 5) documentation, ethical and legal implications for nursing practice; and 6) current CPR certification. This course shall include a minimum of the clinical components, providing direct patient care supervised by another nurse, as stated on the Board's website, <http://www.bon.texas.gov/olv/pdfs/6mth-lvn.pdf>. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to notify the Board of RESPONDENT'S successful completion on the Verification of Course Completion form, available from the Board at <http://www.bon.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/pdfs/i17.pdf>. 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.

(3) 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.texas.gov/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>.*

(4) 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.texas.gov/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. *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 A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR TWO (2) YEAR(S) OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY 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:

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the probation 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 probation 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.

(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 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.

(9) For the remainder of the stipulation/probation 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. 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 two (2) year(s) of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

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 may 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 have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) 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 31st day of October, 2013.

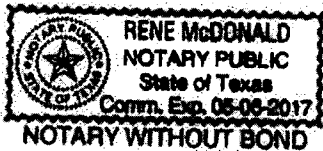
Stella Nnalu Ekworomadu
STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of October, 2013.

SEAL

René McDonald

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

John J. Rivas
John J. Rivas, Attorney for Respondent
Signed this 31st day of October, 2013

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31st day of October, 2013, by STELLA NNALU EKWOROMADU, Vocational Nurse License Number 209164, and said Order is final.

Effective this 10th day of December, 2013.



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