

In the Matter of
Permanent Registered Nurse
License Number 705300
Issued to KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA,
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS
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§ BOARD OF NURSING



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 Williams
Executive Director of the Board

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

TO: KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA
17310 STONE PEAKS DRIVE
HOUSTON, TX 77095

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing was held on July 11, 2014, at 333 Guadalupe, Room 3-460, Austin, Texas, in which the Temporary Suspension of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 705300, issued to KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA was considered pursuant to Section 301.455, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE. Staff of the Texas Board of Nursing appeared and presented information and evidence concerning the conduct of KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA and whether her continued practice as a nurse would constitute a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

After review and due consideration of the evidence and information presented, the Board finds that the following charges are substantiated:

From approximately November 2010 through August 2013, Respondent's minor child, P.R., was unnecessarily treated for medical conditions that she did not really have, based upon exaggerated and/or falsified information communicated to the child's healthcare providers by the Respondent. These false reports were made by the Respondent for the purpose of obtaining medical interventions for her child, some involving extremely invasive procedures. For example, the child had a tunneled central line and G-J tube placed for the purpose of enteral feeding due to Respondent's reports of the child's ongoing distension and nausea. During this time period, the child also suffered a series of line infections and other febrile illnesses, without source, as well as bouts of RSV and Human Metapneumovirus.

Beginning in Spring 2013, the child suffered several instances of symptomatic hypernatremia and was hospitalized on three separate occasions, the last hospitalization requiring life-saving interventions. It was determined that the child's elevated sodium levels were caused by an exogenous source of sodium, likely administered by the Respondent. The child was diagnosed with medical child abuse and was removed from the Respondent's custody by Child Protective Services.

After being removed from her mother's care, it was confirmed that the child never had any medical condition that required the medical interventions sought by the Respondent or carried any of the diagnoses reported by the Respondent. The child has normal intestinal function and is able to obtain nourishment from an oral diet like any healthy child.

The Texas Board of Nursing further finds that, given the nature of the charges, the continued practice of nursing by KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA constitutes a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare and that the temporary suspension of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 705300, is justified pursuant to Section 301.455, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that, Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 705300, issued to KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA, to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is, hereby SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY in accordance with Section 301.455, TEXAS OCCUPATIONS CODE.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a probable cause hearing be conducted in accordance with Section 301.455(c) not later than seventeen (17) days following the date of the entry of this order, and a final hearing on the matter be conducted in accordance with 301.455(d) not later than the 61st day following the date of the entry of this order.

Entered this 11th day of July, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:



KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

D455-12/06/2012

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FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, KATIE ALICE RIPSTRA, is a Registered Nurse holding License Number 705300 which is in current 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.

From approximately November 2010 through August 2013, Respondent's minor child, P.R., was unnecessarily treated for medical conditions that she did not really have, based upon exaggerated and/or falsified information communicated to the child's healthcare providers by the Respondent. These false reports were made by the Respondent for the purpose of obtaining medical interventions for her child, some involving extremely invasive procedures. For example, the child had a tunneled central line and G-J tube placed for the purpose of enteral feeding due to Respondent's reports of the child's ongoing distension and nausea. During this time period, the child also suffered a series of line infections and other febrile illnesses, without source, as well as bouts of RSV and Human Metapneumovirus.

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After being removed from her mother's care, it was confirmed that the child never had any medical condition that required the medical interventions sought by the Respondent or carried any of the diagnoses reported by the Respondent. The child has normal intestinal function and is able to obtain nourishment from an oral diet like any healthy child.

The Respondent's conduct caused harm to and/or was likely to injure the child. Further, the Respondent's conduct may be indicative of a mental health condition that could prevent her from being able to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety. The Respondent's continued practice as a nurse poses a continuing and imminent threat to the public welfare.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section

301.452(b)(10) & (12), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(4) & (6)(C).

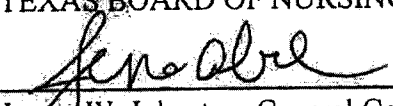
NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license/s to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 Tex. Admin. 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.

Filed this 3rd day of July, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING


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