#### BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of	<b>§</b>
Vocational Nurse License Number 140030	
issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON	. §



### ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Vocational Nurse License Number 140030, issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- 3. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Clarendon College, Clarendon, Texas, on August 21, 1992. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 6 1992.
- 4. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

1992 - 2001	LVN	Texas Tech Amarillo, Texas
1999 - 2003	LVN	Plum Creek Health Care Amarillo, Texas

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

2003 - unknown

LVN

Wellington Care Center Amarillo, Texas

- 5. On or about January 19, 2012, Respondent was issued the sanction of a Warning with Stipulations through an Agreed Order by the Board. A copy of the Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order dated is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 6. On or about January 20, 2013, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on January 19, 2012, 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 a course in "Detecting and Preventing Abuse and Neglect"....
- 7. Formal Charges were filed on October 9, 2014.
- 8. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on October 15, 2014.
- 9. On November 24, 2014, the Board received a statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas in lieu of complying with the Agreed Board Order issued to Respondent on January 19, 2012. A copy of Respondent's statement, dated November 24, 2014, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 10. The Board policy implementing Rule 213.29 in effect on the date of this Agreed Order provides discretion by the Executive Director for consideration of conditional reinstatement.

#### **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(s) of 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(B).

- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)& (10) Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 140030, heretofore issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TAC§§213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

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# **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Vocational Nurse License Number 140030, heretofore issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is/are accepted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice vocational nursing, use the title of vocational 1. nurse or the abbreviation LVN or wear any insignia identifying herself as a vocational nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a vocational nurse during the period in which the license/s is/are surrendered.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until: one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
- Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing 3. requirements for relicensure.

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.

Effective this 24th day of November, 2014.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

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Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse

AGREED

License Number 140030

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issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MARY HELEN FERGUSON, Vocational Nurse License Number 140030, 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 October 11, 2011, 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(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 Clarendon College, Clarendon, Texas on August 21, 1992. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 6, 1992.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1992-2001	LVN	Texas Tech Amarillo, Texas
1999-2003	LVN	Plum Creek health Care Amarillo, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2003-Present

LVN-Charge Nurse

Wellington Care Center Amarillo, Texas

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a LVN-Charge Nurse with Wellington Care Center, Amarillo, Texas, and had been in this position for six (6) years.
- 7. On or about April 13, 2009, while employed with Wellington Care Center, Wellington, Texas, Respondent failed to assess and intervene when she found Resident M.S. sitting, unresponsive in her chair. Respondent failed to initiate and maintain appropriate resuscitative measures, including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) when she determined the resident had no pulse and instead left the room to get the Director of Nursing to assist her, leaving the resident alone with the Certified Nursing Assistant. The Resident was a designated "Full Code." Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to risk of harm from ineffective treatment which may have contributed to the patient's demise.
- 8. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that one of the complaints she had with Wellington Care Center was that the resident's code status were not kept on the chart but rather in an office in a filing cabinet. Respondent states that when she was called to the resident's room and found her unresponsive, sitting in her recliner, Respondent went to the resident's door and found that there was no "color code" to indicate if the resident was a Code or No Code and so she left the resident with a CNA and went to look for the patient's chart. Respondent states she couldn't find the chart so she went to find the Director of Nursing, who also couldn't find the chart. Respondent states that she knew she would be in trouble if the resident was a No Code and that she would also be in trouble if the resident was a Code. Respondent states that it took 30 minutes to find the resident's chart.

# **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, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(M)&(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 140030,
  heretofore issued to MARY HELEN FERGUSON, 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 WARNING 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: <a href="http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html">http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html</a>.

(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 "Detecting and Preventing Abuse and Neglect ...," a five (5) contact hour workshop presented in various locations by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. In order to receive credit for completion of this workshop, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this workshop 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 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 nour 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 Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board we bsite address:

http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.

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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 ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) 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:

- of the Board and the stipulations 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 mounty all future employers in nursing or this Order of the Board and the stipulations 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.

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- (7) 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.
- (8) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to submit, on forms provided to the Respondent by the Board, periodic reports as to RESPONDENTS 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 one (1) year 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	$2$ day of _	nov	, 20_//
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MADVINE	Hella	Tille	m
MARY HELE	N FERSUSC	)N, Respo	ndent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of Vember, 20]

SEAL

RHONDA AVENI
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2011, by MARY HELEN FERGUSON, Vocational Nurse License Number 140030, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of January, 2012.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

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