

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of  
 Registered Nurse License Number 255003  
 issued to KAREN JOAN GRIBBLE WHEELER

§ AGREED  
 §  
 § ORDER  
 §



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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of KAREN JOAN GRIBBLE WHEELER, Registered Nurse License Number 255003, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on February 16, 2015.

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 agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas, on May 1, 1981. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 8, 1981.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:
 

1981 - 11/1986	Staff Nurse	Bethania Hospital Wichita Falls, Texas
11/1986 - 7/1988	Registered Nurse	Wichita General Hospital Wichita Falls, Texas



Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

7/1988 - 3/1994	Registered Nurse	Denton Regional Medical Center Denton, Texas
3/1994 - 6/1996	Registered Nurse	HCA Denton Community Hospital Denton, Texas
6/1996 - 7/2002	Registered Nurse	Heart Center of North Texas Denton, Texas
7/2002 - 8/2009	Registered Nurse	Denton Regional Medical Center Denton, Texas
8/2009 - 1/2014	Registered Nurse	HCA Medical Center McKinney McKinney, Texas
1/2010 - 8/2014	Registered Nurse	Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Denton, Texas
9/2014 - Present	Registered Nurse	Texoma Medical Center Denison, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Denton, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) years and seven (7) months.
7. On or about August 13, 2014, through August 14, 2014, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Denton, Texas, Respondent administered excessive Dilaudid to Patient Number 63175. The physician had ordered the Dilaudid 0.5 mg intravenous for a pain of seven (7) or higher, but Respondent administered the medication approximately every two (2) hours for a total of five (5) doses between 8:02 pm through 5:33 am with a documented pain level of less than five (5). The patient became unresponsive, Narcan (a rescue medication for opioid adverse reactions) was administered and the patient recovered. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the excessive administration of Dilaudid resulted in the patient experiencing significant effects of overdose including over sedation.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states the patient was not able to provide a numeric rating for pain when assessed and the maximum pain rating on the behavioral pain scale was five. Respondent states at around 7:00 pm, she received telephone report from the recovery room nurse who stated around 5:30 pm after she administered 6 mg of Morphine, the patient had some episodes of apnea. Respondent states the patient had some analgesic-related complications and had a choice of Motrin, Norco or Dilaudid. Respondent states she believed that small doses of IV Dilaudid was more sensible than either Motrin or Norco, even though Dilaudid was indicated for a pain level of six (6)

or higher. Respondent states the most she could rate the patient's pain behaviorally was five (5). Respondent states she medicated the patient around 8:30 pm and 10:30 pm, and she medicated him further for pain at 12:30 am, 2:30 am and around 5:30 am.

### 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 §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(M)&(3)(A) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(4).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 255003, heretofore issued to KAREN JOAN GRIBBLE WHEELER.
5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

### TERMS OF ORDER

#### **I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY**

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to Respondent to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- B. This Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state without first obtaining the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing and the Board of Nursing in the nurse licensure compact party state where Respondent wishes to work.

#### **II. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT agrees to 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.

### III. REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)

In addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may require for licensure renewal, RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete the following remedial education course(s) **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics** that 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. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- B. **A Board-approved course in medication administration** with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours. Both the didactic and clinical components be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the six (6) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. 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. Successful completion of this course requires RESPONDENT to successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course.
- C. **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/these course(s), RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form

or SHALL submit the continuing education certificate, as applicable, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office. RESPONDENT SHALL first obtain Board approval of any course prior to enrollment if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. *Information about Board-approved courses and Verification of Course Completion forms are available from the Board at [www.bon.texas.gov/compliance](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

#### IV. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse, providing direct patient care in a licensed healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment with the same employer for all three (3) months will not count towards completion of this requirement. 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 period and will not count towards completion of this requirement.

- A. **Notifying Present and Future Employers:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing and present each with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, prior to accepting an offer of employment.
- B. **Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment form" to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. **Indirect Supervision:** 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.

- D. Nursing Performance Evaluations:** 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 and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

**V. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)**

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 waive representation by counsel. 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 entry of this 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 24 day of March, 2015.

Karen Joan Gribble Wheeler  
KAREN JOAN GRIBBLE WHEELER, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24 day of March, 2015.

SEAL



A. Rich  
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 24th day of March, 2015, by KAREN JOAN GRIBBLE WHEELER, Registered Nurse License Number 255003, and said Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of May, 2015.



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