BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of
Registered Nurse License Number 420083
issued to CAROL A FREPPON RICHARDSON



ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day, the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, accepted the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 420083, issued to CAROL A FREPPON RICHARDSON, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas is currently in inactive status.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing.
- 3. Respondent received a Diploma in Nursing from St. Vincent Infirmary, Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 22, 1966. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on November 16, 1969.
- 4. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.
- 5. On or about April 2, 2015, the Voluntary Surrender of Respondent's California registered nurse license was accepted by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Sacramento, California. A copy of the California Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order dated April 2, 2015, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this Order.

- 6. Formal Charges were filed on May 28, 2015.
- 7. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on May 28, 2015.
- 8. On July 27, 2015, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas. A copy of Respondent's notarized statement, dated July 27, 2015, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 9. 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 after proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of abstinence from alcohol and drugs followed by licensure limitations/stipulations and/or peer assistance program participation.
- 10. The Board finds that there exists serious risks to public health and safety as a result of impaired nursing care due to intemperate use of controlled substances or chemical dependency.

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 cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(8), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 420083, heretofore issued to CAROL A FREPPON RICHARDSON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 4. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 6. 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.

<u>ORDER</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 420083, heretofore issued to CAROL A FREPPON RICHARDSON, 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:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional nursing, use the title of "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered 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; and, RESPONDENT has obtained objective, verifiable proof of twelve (12) consecutive months of sobriety immediately preceding the petition.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing 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 27th day of July, 2015.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

Caral a. Richardson

CAROL A FREPPON RICHARDSON 3449 GAK DK 168 Via Olivera.

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA 30245 Camarillo, CA. 93012

Registered Nurse License Number 420083

Voluntary Surrender Statement

			and for the same	
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I no longer desire to be licensed as a nurse. Accordingly, I voluntarily surrender my license(s) to practice in Texas. I waive representation by counsel and consent to the entry of an Order which outlines requirements for reinstatement of my license. I understand that I may not petition for reinstatement until one (1) year from the effective date of the ect at the time

Order. I und	erstand that I will	be required	to comply wi	th the Board's	Rules and Reg	ulations in effe
I submit any	petition for reinst	atement.				
			Signature	Carol	anne E 7-15	i'char
			Date	7-2	7-15	·
			Registered	Nurse Licens	se Number 4200	83
The State of	Texas (SOC	Calif	ornia	QHO	chnen	+)
	FREPPON RIC	CHARDSON	I who, being	duly sworn l	sonally appeare by me, stated the and that he or sh	at he or she
Swor	n to before me the		day of			
SEAL						
	:	Notary Publi	c in and for t	he State of		

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

(CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1189)

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

COUNTY OF VENTURA)
on 07 27/2015 before me, Sabrina Ruth Ayala, Notary Public, (Here Insert Name and Title of the Officer)
personally appeared <u>Carol fine</u> <u>Richardson</u> , who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s) or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.
I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.
SABRINA RUTH AYALA Commission # 2079097 Notary Public - California Ventura County My Comm. Expires Aug 22, 2018 (Notary Seal)
ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL INFORMATION
Description of Attached Document Title or Type of Document Surrender Gatomond Document Date: 07 27 201 \in Number of Pages: Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: Additional Information:

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

CAROL ANNE RICHARDSON,

Registered Nurse License No. 471425

Case No. 2014-1572

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

Pursuant to Title 16 of the Galifornia Code of Regulations, section 1403, the attached Stipulated Settlement is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing as its Decision and Order in the above-entitled matter.

This Decision shall become effective on April 2, 2015

IT IS SO ORDERED this 2nd day of April 2015

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the documents on file in our office.

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

Louise R. Bailey, M. ED., RN Interim Executive Officer AND SHAME

Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., Br

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing
Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

I	KAMALA D. HARRIS
2	Attorney General of California ARMANDO ZAMBRANO
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ALVARO MEJIA
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 216956
-	300 So, Spring Street, Suite 1702
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-0083
6	Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 Attorneys for Complainant
7	6
.8	BEFORE THE
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2014-1572
12	CAROL ANNE RICHARDSON
13	168 Via Olivera Camarillo, CA 93012 STIPULATED SURRENDER OF
14	Registered Nurse License No. 471425
15	Respondent
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18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
19	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:
20	<u>PARTIES</u>
21	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of
22	Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in
23	this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by Alvaro Mejia,
24	Deputy Attorney General.
25	2. Carol Anne Richardson (Respondent) is representing herself in this proceeding and
26	has chosen not to exercise her right to be represented by counsel.
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3. On or about August 31, 1991, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 471425 to Respondent Carol Anne Richardson. The Registered Nurse License expired on June 30, 2013, and has not been renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2014-1572 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs; and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on June 23, 2014. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense confesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2014-1572 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference:

ADVIŠEMĖNT AND WATVĖRS

- Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2014-1572. Respondent also has carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf, the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration; and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California.

 Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above:

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation. No. 2014-1572, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders her Registered Nurse License No. 471425 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Registered Nurse License without further process.

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10. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Registered Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be madmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter:

- The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including Portable Document Format.

 (PDF) and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Surrender of License and Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 471425, issued to Respondent Carol Anne Richardson, is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Registered Nursing.

 The surrender of Respondent's Registered Nurse License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board of Registered Nursing.

- Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Registered Nurse in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board her pocket license and, if one was issued, her wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 2014-1572 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- If and when Respondent's license is reinstated, she shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$10,270,50. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board. Nothing in this provision shall be construed to prohibit the Board from reducing the amount of cost recovery upon reinstatement of the license.
- If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 2014-1572 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.
- 7. Respondent shall not apply for licensure or petition for reinstatement for two:(2) years from the effective date of the Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

ATED: October 31, 2

t Canal Chine Richard
CAROLANNERICHARDSON

Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Dated:

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2/23/2015

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
ARMANIXO ZAMP ANO
Supervising Deputy Attorney General:

ALVARO MEJIA Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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DOJ Matter ID: LA2013509918 51630702.doc

Exhibit A
Accusation Case No. 2014-1572

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS				
2	Attorney General of California ARMANDO ZAMBRANO				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ALVARO MEJIA				
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 216956				
-	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702				
5	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-0083				
6	Facsimile: (213) 897-2804				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8					
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING				
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
11					
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. Z014-157Z				
13	CAROL ANNE RICHARDSON 168 Via Olivera				
	Camarillo, CA 93012 ACCUSATION				
14	Registered Nurse License No. 471425				
15	Respondent.				
16					
17					
18	Complainant alleges:				
19	PARTIES				
20	1. Louise R. Bailey, M.Ed., RN (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her				
21	official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing (Board),				
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.				
23	2. On or about August 31, 1991, the Board issued Registered Nurse License Number				
24	471425 to Carol Anne Richardson (Respondent). Respondent's registered nurse license was in				
25	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein. Respondent's license				
26	expired on June 30, 2013, and has not been renewed.				
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In the Matter of the Accusation Against: CAROL ANNE RICHARDSON

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 3. Business and Professions Code (Code) section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 4. Code section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Code section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
 - 5. Code section 2761 states, in pertinent part:

The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct
- Code section 2762 states, in pertinent part:

In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- (a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022.
- (b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license.
- (e) Falsify, or make grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to the substances described in subdivision (a) of this section.

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against: CAROL ANNE RICHARDSON

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(Use of Controlled Substances to an Extent or in a Manner Dangerous or Injurious to Oneself or Others)

- Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a) as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (b), because Respondent used the controlled substance Fentanyl to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself and/or others, as set forth below.
- On January 17, 2012, Respondent participated in a "Weingarten" investigative interview conducted by VCMC. During this interview, Respondent admitted that between December 2011 and January 2012, while working as a senior registered nurse at VCMC, Ventura, California, she diverted intravenous Fentanyl for her own use while providing care for at least three (3) patients. Respondent could not explain her withdrawal of large quantities of intravenous Fentanyl while providing care for two other patients at VCMC during this same time period.
- On May 1, 2013, during an interview with an investigator from the Division of Investigation, Department of Consumer Affairs, Respondent admitted to a long term drug and alcohol addiction problem, spanning her 20-year career at VCMC. Respondent stated that while employed at VCMC, "I was a functioning alcoholic. I know I am an alcoholic and a drug addict." Respondent admitted that between December 2011 and January 2012, while working as a senior registered nurse at VCMC, Ventura, California, she diverted intravenous Fentanyl for her own use while providing care for her patients. Respondent admitted that she was addicted to Fentanyl during the diversion period and that because she was under the constant influence of alcohol and Fentanyl during this time, she did not recall specific details regarding her Fentanyl diversion.

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(Diversion and Self-Administration of Controlled Substances)

15. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (a), because Respondent committed the following acts:

Diversion of Controlled Substances:

- a. Respondent obtained the controlled substance Fentanyl by fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or subterfuge, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11173, subdivision (a), as set forth below.
- 1. Respondent admitted that she diverted intravenous Fentanyl on at least five (5) occasions between December 2011 and January 2012 while working as a senior registered nurse at Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) in Ventura, California, as more particularly set forth in paragraph 14, incorporated herein.
- 2. On and between December 2011 and January 2012, in the course and scope of her job duties as a senior registered nurse in the Obstetrics, Labor, and Delivery Department at VCMC, Ventura, California, Respondent removed multiple doses of intravenous Fentanyl from VCMC's Pyxis System (a computerized medication dispensing system) for five (5) patients in excess of documented physician orders. Respondent failed to correctly chart the administration of the Fentanyl in the patients' medication administration record, failed to document the wastage of the Fentanyl in the Pyxis System, and falsified or made grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in the patients' records, as set forth in paragraph 16, incorporated herein.

Self-Administration of Controlled Substances:

b. Respondent self-administered the controlled substances Fentanyl, without proper authorization, as set forth in paragraph 14, incorporated herein.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(False Entries in Hospital/Patient Records)

16. Respondent's license is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct pursuant to Code section 2761, subdivision (a), as defined by Code section 2762, subdivision (e), because on and between December 2011 and January 2012, in the course and scope of her job duties as a senior registered nurse in the Obstetrics, Labor, and Deliver Department at VCMC, Ventura, California, Respondent falsified, or made grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in hospital, patient, or other records pertaining to the controlled substance

Fentanyl, as follows:

Patient E.J.

a. On December 2, 2011, between 0931 and 1712 hours, Respondent removed 28ml intravenous Fentanyl from the Pyxis System for the patient when the physician's orders called for the administration of 2ml Fentanyl for IV drip per hour as needed for pain. Respondent charted administration of at total of 5ml Fentanyl on December 2, 2011, but failed to document the wastage of the remaining 23ml of Fentanyl in the Pyxis System or otherwise account for the disposition of the Fentanyl.

Patient A.S.

b. On December 26, 2011, between 1155 and 1810 hours, Respondent removed 50ml intravenous Fentanyl from the Pyxis System for the patient when the physician's orders called for the administration of 2ml Fentanyl for IV drip per hour as needed for pain. Respondent charted administration of at total of 12ml Fentanyl on December 26, 2011, but failed to document the wastage of the remaining 38ml of Fentanyl in the Pyxis System or otherwise account for the disposition of the Fentanyl.

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Patient K.L.

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c. On December 31, 2011, between 1630 and 1738 hours, Respondent removed 6ml intravenous Fentanyl from the Pyxis System for the patient when the physician's orders called for the administration of 2ml Fentanyl for IV drip per hour as needed for pain. Respondent charted administration of at total of 4ml Fentanyl on December 31, 2011, but failed to document the wastage of the remaining 2ml of Fentanyl in the Pyxis System or otherwise account for the disposition of the Fentanyl.

Patient A.C.

d. On January 1, 2012, at approximately 1619 hours, Respondent removed 6ml intravenous Fentanyl from the Pyxis System for the patient when the physician's orders called for the administration of 2ml Fentanyl for IV drip per hour as needed for pain. Respondent failed to chart administration of 2ml Fentanyl on January 1, 2012, and failed to document the wastage of the remaining 4ml of Fentanyl in the Pyxis System or otherwise account for the disposition of the Fentanyl.

Patient G.G.

e. On January 5, 2012, between 1437 and 1651 hours, and January 6, 2012, between 0959 and 1435 hours, Respondent removed 84ml intravenous Fentanyl from the Pyxis System for the patient when the physician's orders called for the administration of 2ml Fentanyl for IV drip per hour as needed for pain. Respondent charted administration of at total of 17ml Fentanyl between January 5 and 6, 2012, but failed to document the wastage of the remaining 67ml of Fentanyl in the Pyxis System or otherwise account for the disposition of the Fentanyl.

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DOJ Matter ID: LA2013509918

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WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

- Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 471425, issued to Carol-
- Ordering Carol Anne Richardson, to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and
 - Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

R, BAILEY, M.ED., RN

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs