



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of	§	AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 713084	§	
& Vocational Nurse License Number 146357	§	
issued to GINGER MARIE MCELFRISH	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board,

~~considered the matter of GINGER MARIE MCELFRISH, Registered Nurse License Number~~

713084 and Vocational Nurse License Number 146357, 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 September 14, 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in inactive status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Hill College, Hillsboro, Texas, on December 15, 1993, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from McLennan Community College, Waco, Texas, on December 1, 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 6, 1994, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 3, 2005.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

12/1993-1996	LVN	Canterbury Villa Nursing Home Hillsboro, Texas
1996-1997	LVN	West Community Hospital West, Texas
1997-09/01	LVN	Hill Country Primary Care Center Whitney, Texas
10/01-01/05	LVN	Hill Regional Hospital Hillsboro, Texas
02/05-01/07	RN	Hill Regional Hospital Hillsboro, Texas
01/07-12/11	LVN Instructor	Hill College Hillsboro, Texas
01/12-07/12	RN	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Waco, Texas
08/12-10/12	RN	First Surgery Suites Sulphur Springs, Texas
10/12-07/13	RN	Hospice at Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, Texas
07/13-06/15	RN	Hopkins County Memorial Hospital Sulphur Springs, Texas
06/15-Present	RN Case Manager	Heart to Heart Hospice Sulphur Springs, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately one (1) year and eleven (11) months.

7. On or about May 7, 2015, through June 1, 2015, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, Texas, Respondent withdrew one hundred (100) micrograms of Fentanyl, twenty (20) milligrams of Diazepam, one (1) tablet of Lorazepam .5mg, and one (1) tablet of Hydrocodone 7.5/325, from the medication dispensing system for patients but failed to document and/or completely and accurately

document the administration of the medications in the patients' Medication Administration Records and/or nurses' notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients, in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients which could result in an overdose. Additionally, Respondent's conduct placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.

8. On or about May 7, 2015, through June 1, 2015, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, Texas, Respondent withdrew two hundred (200) micrograms of Fentanyl, thirty (30) milligrams of Diazepam, thirty (30) milligrams of Morphine Sulfate, one (1) tablet of Lorazepam .5mg, one (1) tablet of Hydrocodone 7.5/325, and two (2) tablet of Hydromorphone 1mg from the medication dispensing system for patients but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedures for wastage of the unused portions of the medications. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the pharmacy in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
9. On or about may 7, 2015, through June 1, 2015, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Hopkins County Memorial Hospital, Sulphur Springs, Texas, Respondent misappropriated two hundred (200) micrograms of Fentanyl, thirty (30) milligrams of Diazepam, thirty (30) milligrams of Morphine Sulfate, one (1) tablet of Lorazepam .5mg, one (1) tablet of Hydrocodone 7.5/325, and two (2) tablet of Hydromorphone 1mg belonging to the facility or patients thereof or failed to take precautions to prevent the misappropriation.
10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states she did give numerous doses of Lorazepam, and she always showed another nurse what and how much she was wasting, but due to the chaos, she did not make it back to the pyxis to "document" the wastage every time. Respondent states she did have excess Fentanyl that she did not administer, and again, she visually wasted it with another nurse, but was not beside the pyxis, so the medication were either disposed of down the sink or in the sharps container. Respondent states she is in agreement that she failed to follow policy and procedure regarding documentation of wastage, but is in disagreement with the fact that said medications were misappropriated. Respondent states she has never taken medications from the facility or patient or done anything deceitful with any medications, controlled or otherwise.

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)(D) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(A),(6)(G),(6)(H),(10)(B),(10)(C)&(11)(B).

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 713084 and Vocational Nurse License Number 146357, heretofore issued to GINGER MARIE MCELFRISH.
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. A Board-approved course in nursing documentation that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include: nursing standards related to accurate and complete documentation; legal guidelines for recording; methods and processes of recording; methods of alternative record-keeping; and computerized documentation. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.
- D. 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.*

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. DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED REQUIREMENTS

- A. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL abstain from the use of alcohol, tramadol and all controlled substances, except as prescribed by a licensed practitioner for a legitimate purpose. If prescribed, RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the licensed practitioner to submit a written report identifying the medication, dosage and the date the medication was prescribed. The report shall be submitted directly to the office of the Board by the prescribing practitioner, within ten (10) days of the date of the prescription. In the event that prescriptions for controlled substances are required for periods of two (2) weeks or longer, the Board may require and RESPONDENT SHALL submit to a pain management and/or chemical dependency evaluation by a Board approved evaluator. The performing evaluator must submit a written report meeting the Board's requirements to the Board's office within thirty (30) days from the Board's request.
- B. While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL submit to random periodic screens for alcohol, tramadol, and controlled substances. The Board will provide instructions on how to enroll in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program following the entry of this Order and screening will begin when Respondent obtains employment and submits the Notification of Employment form to the Board.
- For the first three (3) month [1st quarter] period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, random screens shall be performed at least once per week.
 - For the next three (3) month [2nd quarter] period, random screens shall be performed at least twice per month.
 - For the next six (6) month period [3rd & 4th quarters], random screens

- shall be performed at least once per month.
- For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, if any, random screens shall be performed at least once every three (3) month quarterly period.

All random screens SHALL BE conducted through urinalysis. Screens obtained through urinalysis are the sole method accepted by the Board. Any test result for a period of time in which the RESPONDENT is not working as a nurse under the terms of this Order will not count towards satisfaction of this requirement. All screens shall be properly monitored and produced in accordance with the Board's policy on Random Drug Testing. A complete chain of custody shall be maintained for each specimen obtained and analyzed. ~~RESPONDENT SHALL be responsible for the costs of all random drug screening during the stipulation/probation period.~~

Specimens shall be screened for at least the following substances and their metabolites:

Amphetamines	Meperidine
Barbiturates	Methadone
Benzodiazepines	Methaqualone
Cannabinoids	Opiates
Cocaine	Phencyclidine
Ethanol	Propoxyphene
tramadol hydrochloride (Ultram)	

A Board representative may appear at the RESPONDENT'S place of employment at any time during the stipulation period and require RESPONDENT to produce a specimen for screening.

Consequences of Positive or Missed Screens. Any positive result for which RESPONDENT does not have a valid prescription or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen may subject RESPONDENT to further disciplinary action, including TEMPORARY SUSPENSION pursuant to Section 301.4551, Texas Occupations Code, or REVOCATION of Respondent's license(s) and nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas. Further, failure to report for a drug screen, excessive dilute specimens, or failure to call in for a drug screen may be considered the same as a positive result or refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol screen.

VI. 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.

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 6th day of October, 2015.

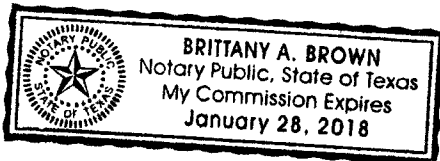
Ginger Marie Mcelfresh
GINGER MARIE MCELFRISH, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6 day of October, 2015.

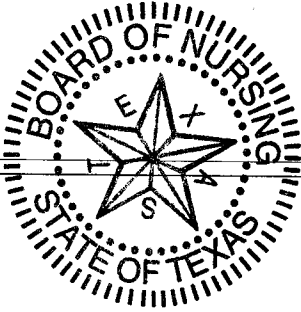
SEAL

Brittany A. Brown

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 6th day of October, 2015, by GINGER MARIE MCELFRESH, Registered Nurse License Number 713084 and Vocational Nurse License Number 146357, and said Order is final.



Effective this 10th day of November, 2015.

Katherine A. Thomas

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

I certify this to be a true copy
of the records on file with the
Texas Board of Nursing
Date: 11/13/2015
Signed: WJH