



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 Advanced Practice Registered § AGREED
Nurse License Number AP115095 §
& Registered Nurse License Number 677215 §
issued to LATONYA H. SINGLETON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LATONYA H. SINGLETON, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115095 and Registered Nurse License Number 677215, 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 October 1, 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. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Southern University School of Nursing, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on December 15, 2000, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from Prairie View A&M University, Houston, Texas, on May 13, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on May 15, 2001, and was licensed to practice advanced practice professional nursing in the State of Texas in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner on June 28, 2006.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/2001-10/2007	Registered Nurse	Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital Houston, Texas
5/2007-10/2007	Nurse Practitioner	RediClinic Houston, Texas
10/2006-Present	Nurse Practitioner	Moore Unique Dermatology Houston, Texas
12/2010-5/2011	Nurse Practitioner	All-N-Clusive Healthcare Pasadena, Texas
7/2012-Present	Nurse Practitioner	The University of Texas Medical Branch- Correctional Managed Care Rosharon, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with The University of Texas Medical Branch Correctional Managed Care, and had been in that position for two (2) years and six (6) months.
7. On or about January 7, 2015, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with The University of Texas Medical Branch Correctional Managed Care, and providing care to patients at the Ramsey facility, Rosharon, Texas, Respondent failed to send Patient Number 1915362 to the hospital emergently, once the results of a chest X-ray came back showing a large pleural effusion and collapse of the right lung. The patient was sent non-emergently by van to the hospital and subsequently required chest tube placement and drainage of fluids from the chest cavity. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a delay in treatment of the lung collapse.
8. On or about March 19, 2014, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with The University of Texas Medical Branch Correctional Managed Care, and providing care to patients at Terrell Unit, Rosharon, Texas, Respondent failed to intervene appropriately when nursing staff reported to her that Patient Number 1690908 came to the clinic with chest pain. Respondent gave orders to have the patient follow-up with a provider later that day, instead of an emergent response based on the patient's medical history and diagnostic findings, including an abnormal EKG. The patient was found later that day unresponsive, required resuscitation, and expired from a sudden cardiac event secondary to longstanding heart disease. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a delay in treatment and escalation of care.

9. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that the chest X-ray was returned to her with the report of the pleural effusion and lung collapse, and she had the patient brought to the clinic right away. Respondent states that the patient's vital signs were within normal limits and he was in no distress. Respondent adds that it would have taken forty to fifty minutes to get an ambulance to the unit, but the transport van was available right away and it was quicker since it was just a twenty minute drive to the hospital. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states that she was given information from the Staff RN without benefit of being able to visually see the information herself, and made a decision based on her personal training, knowledge, UTMB policies, protocols and treatment plans. Respondent states that the staff nurse reported to her at 0500 that the patient was without chest pain, Troponin was 0.02, that he responded to a second nitroglycerin dose and was in no current distress. Respondent adds that the nurse reported to her that the EKG showed no changes but did not tell her the patient's past medical history including coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure. Respondent states that she told the nurse to have the patient seen by the oncoming provider, which meant the next provider arriving between 0600 and 0800, and did not tell the nurse to have the patient leave the clinic. Respondent concludes that if she had received a complete and clearer report then she would have ordered to send the patient out to the hospital.

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)(M)&(4) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115095 and Registered Nurse License Number 677215, heretofore issued to LATONYA H. SINGLETON, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
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 **REPRIMAND 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 courses **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, unless otherwise specifically indicated:**

- A. **A 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 academic course in advanced practice physical assessment** of at least three (3) semester credit hours, including not less than one (1) semester credit hour, or three (3) clock hours per week, of clinical practicum with a minimum passing grade of not less than "C" or "Pass" if using a "Pass/Fail" grading system. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Instruction SHALL BE provided by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in the clinical practicum component; 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. 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.*

IV. **EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a licensed healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Any quarterly period without continuous employment as an advanced practice registered nurse 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 advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license

will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of 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 present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.
- B. Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "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.
- C. Monitored Practice:** RESPONDENT'S advanced practice registered nursing must be monitored by a Physician or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the same advanced role and population focus area as Respondent who has been approved by the Board. RESPONDENT MUST, within ten (10) days of entry of this Order or within (10) days of employment as an advanced practice registered nurse, provide to the Board a list of three (3) Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and/or three (3) Physicians from which the Board shall select an approved monitor. For each Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and Physician, the list must include name, license number or social security number, educational background and professional employment history. Monitoring shall commence no later than thirty (30) days following the date of Respondent's receipt of the name of the approved monitor selected by the Board. The monitor will offer guidance, advice and assistance to the RESPONDENT as necessary to ensure that deficiencies such as those set forth in this Order do not reoccur. RESPONDENT SHALL meet with the monitor at least twice a month, at least one (1) hour duration each. Meetings may be longer and more frequent if the monitor determines necessary. Multiple employers are prohibited.

D. Nursing Performance Evaluations: RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises/monitors the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising/monitoring Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period for eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] 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.

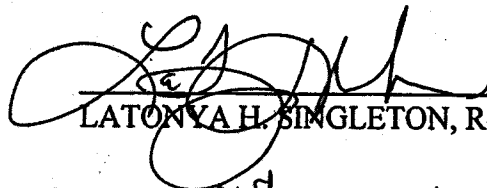
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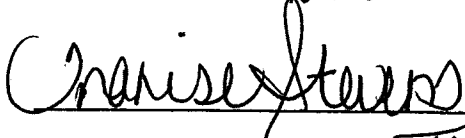
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I 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 31st day of October, 2015.


LATONYA H. SINGLETON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of October, 2015.



SEAL



Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

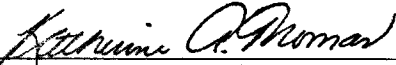

Silvia Tiller, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 3 day of NOV, 2015.

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31st day of October, 2015, by LATONYA H. SINGLETON, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP115095 and Registered Nurse License Number 677215, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8th day of December, 2015.



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