



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 817042 §
issued to EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA, Registered Nurse License Number 817042, 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 July 21, 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 Imo State School of Nursing, Owerri, Nigeria in 2005, and a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing, Houston, Texas, in 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on April 23, 2012.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2005 - 5/2006	Unknown	Federal Medical Center Owerri, Nigeria
6/2006 - 9/2010	Unknown	

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/2010 - 10/2011	Licensed Nurse	Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center Houston, Texas
11/2011 - 2/2012	Unknown	
3/2012 - 6/2012	Registered Nurse	Colonnades at Reflection Bay Pearland, Texas
7/2012 - 1/2015	Registered Nurse	Memorial Hermann Hospital Northwest Houston, Texas
1/2015 - Present	Registered Nurse	TIRR Memorial Hermann The Woodlands, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann Northwest, Houston, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) months.
7. On or about November 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to assess and provide interventions when Patient Number 34684254 began to have an acute change in condition. The patient complained of severe pain in his left lower extremity and was edematous. The only intervention provided to the patient was an "As needed" medication for fever. Approximately three (3) hours later, the patient coded and died. Respondent's failure to assess and intervene likely led to the patient's demise in that significant changes in the patient's status went undetected and prevented a timely intervention.
8. On or about November 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to notify the physician of a change in condition for the aforementioned Patient Number 34684254, who subsequently coded then died. Respondent's conduct deprived the physician of vital information which would be required to institute timely medical interventions, thereby placing the patient at risk of complications.
9. On or about November 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent inappropriately administered 650 mg Tylenol, an "As Needed (PRN)" medication, to the aforementioned Patient Number 34684254. The medication was ordered by the physician to be administered for fever. Respondent instead administered the medication for complaints of pain. During the time of the medication administration the patient had a temperature of 98.2 degrees and did not have a fever. Respondent's conduct placed the patient at risk of ineffective treatment which could result in a delay in the patient's recovery

10. On or about November 10, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann Northwest Hospital, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to accurately and completely document in the medical record of the aforementioned Patient Number 34684254 that the patient had compression stockings on, when in fact they were not ordered for the patient and he never had them applied. Respondent's failure to accurately and completely document an assessment of the patient deprived subsequent care givers of vital information regarding the patient's status and placed the patient at risk of inappropriate or untimely medical interventions.
11. In response to the incidents in Findings of fact Numbers Seven (7) through Ten (10), Respondent states she did not fail to notify the physician of a change in condition. Respondent states at about 7:36 PM the patient complained of left, lower leg pain described as achy, heavy, and 10/10. Respondent states she conducted an assessment of the leg pain and the assessment did not demonstrate any discrepancies between the legs or other possible clinical indicators for deep vein thrombosis. Respondent states she elected to attempt an intervention for the patient's pain, and she administered "As Needed" (PRN) Acetaminophen. With regards to the documentation, Respondent states during the provision of nursing care, she entered in to the electronic health record as many of the nursing assessments and nursing interventions in real-time, as practical. Respondent states the hospital allows nursing staff up to 72 hours to complete nursing documentation. Respondent states all charting entered the following evening was labeled as "late charting", as well as dated and timed. Respondent states that compression stockings were not ordered for the patient and that the documentation of compression stockings was a mistaken selection from the electronic health record drop down menu.
12. Formal Charges were filed on September 25, 2015.
13. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on September 30, 2015.

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), (1)(M), (1)(P) & (3)(A) and 217.12(1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C) & (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 817042, heretofore issued to EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA, 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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 817042, previously issued to EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA, to practice nursing in Texas is hereby **SUSPENDED** with the suspension **STAYED** and Respondent is hereby placed on **PROBATION**, in accordance with the terms of this Order, for a minimum of two (2) years **AND** until Respondent fulfills the requirements 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 physical assessment** 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 must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include physical assessment of all body systems. The clinical component SHALL include physical assessment of live patients in a clinical setting; 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.
- D. **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.

- E. **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.
- F. **The course “Professional Accountability ...”** a 5.4 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 eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) 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. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. This stipulation can be met at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands with three (3) identified Registered Nurses; Shumaila Ali, RN; Charmaine Salvani, RN; & Consuela Harrison-Riley, RN, to be supervisors, RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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. **Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, 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. This stipulation can be met at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands with three (3) identified Registered Nurses; Shumaila Ali, RN; Charmaine Salvani, RN; & Consuela Harrison-Riley, RN, to be supervisors, 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.
- E. **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 eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse.

V. FURTHER COMPLAINTS

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board..

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.

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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 10th day of November, 2015.

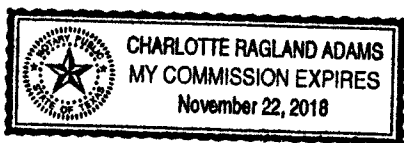
Ahamba Eke
EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of November, 2015.

SEAL

Charlotte R. Adams

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

Angela M. Nolan
Angela M. Nolan, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 10th day of November, 2015

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 10th day of November, 2015, by EKELECHI GARDENIA AHAMBA, Registered Nurse License Number 817042, and said Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of January, 2016.



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