



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.  
*Patricia A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of § AGREED  
Registered Nurse License Number 833495 §  
issued to VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, Registered Nurse License Number 833495, hereinafter referred to as Respondent. This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

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 San Antonio College, San Antonio, Texas on December 10, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 5, 2013.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

04/2013 - 01/2015	RN	San Antonio State Hospital San Antonio, Texas
Unknown - 09/2015	RN	Texas Neuro Rehab Center Austin, Texas

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

10/2015 - Present                      Not employed

6. On June 16, 2015, Respondent's license to practice professional nursing was issued a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS by the Texas Board of Nursing. A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Order of the Board, dated June 16, 2015, is attached and incorporated, by reference, as a part of this Order. Respondent has not completed the requirements of this Order.
7. On or about September 14, 2015, while employed with Texas Neuro Rehab Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent violated professional boundaries of the nurse/client relationship in that she took a patient from the facility to her home and went swimming. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.
8. On or about September 14, 2015, while employed with Texas Neuro Rehab Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent violated professional boundaries of the nurse/client relationship in that she admitted she kissed a patient. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.
9. On or about October 27, 2015, Respondent was indicted for four (4) counts of SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD, a Second Degree felony offense committed on or about September 12, 2015, in the 390th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, under Cause No. D1-DC-15-100193. The case is currently pending.
10. On or about October 27, 2015, Respondent was indicted for two (2) counts of INDECENCY WITH A CHILD BY CONTACT, a Second Degree felony offense committed on or about September 12, 2015, in the 390th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, under Cause No. D1-DC-15-100193. The case is currently pending.
11. On or about October 27, 2015, Respondent was indicted for two (2) counts of INDECENCY WITH A CHILD BY EXPOSURE, a Third Degree felony offense committed on or about September 12, 2015, in the 390th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas, under Cause No. D1-DC-15-100193. The case is currently pending.
12. Respondent, by his/her signature to this Order, expresses his/her desire to voluntarily surrender his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

### 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)(J) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 217.12(1)(B), (4), (6)(D), (6)(E) & (13).
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 833495, heretofore issued to VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, 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.
6. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
7. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
8. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement. Further, should Respondent be convicted of or receive a deferred order for the offense(s) as outlined in Findings of Fact Numbers 9-11, said judicial action may result in the denial of the reinstatement of this license in accordance with the provisions of TEX. OCC. CODE § 301.4535.

### TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that the **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER** of Registered Nurse License Number 833495, heretofore issued to VANESSA ANN

CORDOWAY, to practice nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing.

In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself 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 is surrendered.
2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure, including any restrictions/requirements that may apply pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Section 301.4535.

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.

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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 this Order becomes final when accepted by the Executive Director at which time the terms of this Order become effective and a copy will be mailed to me.

Signed this 19 day of January 2016.

Vanessa Cordoway  
VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, Respondent


Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

SEAL

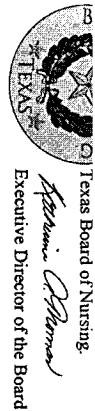
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of Registered Nurse License Number 833495, previously issued to VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY.

Effective this 26th day of January, 2016.



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



BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 833495 §
issued to VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, Registered Nurse License Number 833495, 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 25, 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 Associated Degree in Nursing from San Antonio College, San Antonio, Texas, on December 10, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 5, 2013.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

04/2013 - 01/2015 RN San Antonio State Hospital
San Antonio, Texas

Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

02/2015 - Present

Unknown

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with San Antonio State Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately one (1) year and nine (9) months.
7. On or about January 19, 2015, while employed with San Antonio State Hospital, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent violated patient confidentiality in that she accessed a patient's medical record, who was not under her care, and sent a Facebook message to the patient stating she knew the reason the patient was hospitalized. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that the patient's confidential information was released without the patient's authorization or consent.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent admits she did access the patient's medical record when she overheard coworkers talking about the patient while working on her chart. Respondent thought the patient's name sounded familiar and foolishly decided to look her up on the computer. She thought it would be ok since she was working on that same unit, but looking back, realized this was a mistake. She states the patient was a mutual friend and did send her a private Facebook message disclosing she saw the patient had been admitted to the San Antonio State Hospital. She didn't mean to be malicious or cause any harm in any way.

#### 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)(E) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(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 833495, heretofore issued to VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY.
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 AND A FINE** 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. **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.
- C. **The course "Patient Privacy,"** 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

### III. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

### 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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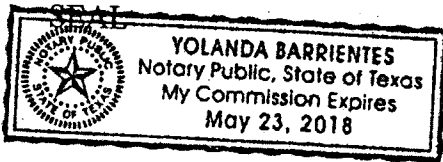
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 13 day of May, 2015.  
Vanessa Cordoway  
VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.  
Yolanda Barrientes  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISE S CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 13th day of May, 2015, by VANESSA ANN CORDOWAY, Registered Nurse License Number 833495, and said Order is final.

Effective this 16th day of June, 2015.



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