



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or its 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
Vocational Nurse License Number 304065 §
issued to ONYII GIBSON OKEREKE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ONYII GIBSON OKEREKE, Vocational Nurse License Number 304065, 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 March 17, 2016.

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 current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from VMT Practical Nursing School, Washington, D.C., on February 28, 2003. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 27, 2011.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

10/2011 - 6/2014	Unknown
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

7/2014 - 3/2015 Charge Nurse Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation
Wharton, Texas

4/2015 - Present Unknown

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Charge Nurse with Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation, Wharton, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
7. On or about March 26, 2015, while employed as a Charge Nurse with Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation, Wharton, Texas, Respondent failed to timely perform an Admission Nursing Assessment when Resident ER was admitted to the facility. Respondent's conduct exposed the resident to the risk of harm in that significant changes in the resident's status may have gone undetected and prevented a timely intervention.
8. On or about March 27, 2015, while employed as a Charge Nurse with Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation, Wharton, Texas, Respondent transcribed the hospital discharge medications for hypertension, diabetes, and for seizures and blood clot prevention for newly admitted Resident ER without verification from the Nurse Practitioner and faxed them to the pharmacy to be filled. Respondent's conduct exposed the resident unnecessarily to a risk of harm from medications ordered without the benefit of the resident's provider.
9. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that he had never been trained on admission procedures, and this was his first admission. Respondent adds that the facility didn't have any standing protocols for after hours admissions. Respondent relates that he was carrying a heavy load with no help, no charge nurse, or nurse supervisor to assist with the new admission or to get directions from. Respondent indicates that the computer system was new, and he didn't have computer skills for on-time documentation of the admission process. Respondent explains that when the patient was brought in, he was administering medications. Respondent states that about forty-five (45) minutes later, he returned to the patient to take his vital signs and oriented the patient and his wife to the call light. Respondent states that around one (1) to one-thirty (1:30) am, he and another nurse fully admitted the resident. Respondent states that resident's admission wasn't timely, but that he fully performed the admission as soon as it was reasonably possible. Respondent states that he and another nurse placed several calls to the Nurse Practitioner (NP) to verify the patient's medications from the hospital, but the NP never answered. Respondent indicates that after waiting several hours for the NP to call back, he did what any reasonable nurse would do; transcribed the medications and faxed them to the pharmacy without verification at about 4 am.
10. Formal Charges were filed on November 19, 2015.

11. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on November 23, 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)(M)&(2)(A) 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 304065, heretofore issued to ONYII GIBSON OKEREKE.
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 **REMEDIAL EDUCATION** 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.

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.*

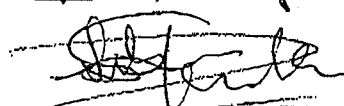
IV. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

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

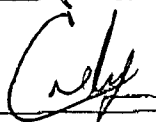
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary 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 19 day of April, 2016.



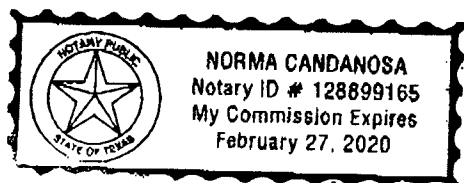
ONYII GIBSON OKEREKE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of April, 2016.

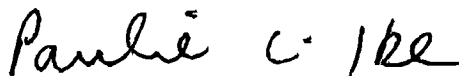


SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.



Pauline C. Ike, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 19 day of April, 2016

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 19th day of April, 2016, by ONYII GIBSON OKEREKE, Vocational Nurse License Number 304065, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of April, 2016.



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