



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

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In the Matter of § AGREED ORDER  
Registered Nurse License Number 827102 § FOR  
issued to MARY ELIZABETH LAW § KSTAR PILOT PROGRAM

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MARY ELIZABETH LAW, Registered Nurse License Number 827102, 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)(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 14, 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 professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from The University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, on May 17, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on October 10, 2012.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:
 

10/2012-1/2016	Staff Nurse	University Medical Center Brackenridge Austin, Texas
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Respondent's nursing employment continued:

4/2015-Present          Staff Nurse                  Hyde Park Surgery Center  
Austin, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, Texas, and had been in that position for three (3) years and three (3) months.
7. On or about August 29, 2015, while employed as a Staff Nurse with University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, Texas, Respondent removed the central venous catheter (CVC) from Patient Number 3375788, though she was not familiar with the procedure and subsequently performed it incorrectly. The patient then experienced a decline in condition, required intubation, and reinsertion of the CVC. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to a risk of harm from complications of a vascular procedure performed without sufficient training and competency, such as bleeding or an air embolism.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she received an order to remove the central line because the patient was transitioning from the intensive care unit (ICU) to a lower acuity unit. Respondent states that the patient was still sitting in the chair when she pulled the catheter, which she realizes was the mistake she made after later reviewing the procedure. Respondent clarifies that after she pulled the catheter, the patient started to act like she could not breathe, so she called for help, put the patient back in the bed and applied oxygen, in addition to calling respiratory therapy staff, the physician, the charge nurse, and the anesthesiologist. Respondent adds that she takes this incident very seriously and understands how critical it is to review procedures, even if she believes she knows all the steps.

#### 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)(G),(1)(M)&(1)(T).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 827102, heretofore issued to MARY ELIZABETH LAW.

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. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, TRAINING, ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH (KSTAR) PILOT PROGRAM**

IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research (KSTAR) Pilot Program and RESPONDENT SHALL:

- (A) Within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order, apply to and enroll in the

KSTAR Pilot Program, including payment of any fees and costs, unless otherwise agreed in writing;

- (B) Submit to an individualized assessment designed to evaluate RESPONDENT'S nursing practice competency and to support a targeted remediation plan;
- (C) Follow all requirements within the remediation plan, if any;
- (D) Successfully complete a Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics as part of the KSTAR Pilot Program; and
- (E) Provide written documentation of successful completion of the KSTAR Pilot Program to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.

**IV. FURTHER COMPETENCY ISSUES AND VIOLATIONS**

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT'S individualized KSTAR Pilot Program assessment identify further competency issues and violations of the Nursing Practice Act, including inability to practice nursing safely, further disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, may be taken based on such results in the assessments.

**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

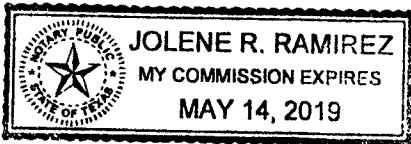
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

Mary Elizabeth Law  
MARY ELIZABETH LAW, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

SEAL



Jolene Ramirez  
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 15th day of April, 2016, by MARY ELIZABETH LAW, Registered Nurse License Number 827102, and said Order is final.

Effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.



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