



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 563598	§	
& Vocational Nurse License Number 124133	§	
issued to RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM, Registered Nurse License Number 563598 and Vocational Nurse License Number 124133, 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 December 23, 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Trinity Valley Community College, Kaufman, Texas, on December 16, 1988, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Trinity Valley Community College, Kaufman, Texas, on July 1, 1990. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 26, 1989, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 31, 1990.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

05/1989-06/1996	RN	Presbyterian Hospital of Kaufman Kaufman, Texas
07/1996-08/2013	RN	Terrell State Hospital Terrell, Texas
06/04-Unknown	RN	Timberlawn Mental Health System Dallas, Texas
08/2013-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Terrell State Hospital, Terrell, Texas, and had been in that position for fifteen (15) years and eight (8) months.
7. On or about February 18, 2012, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Terrell State Hospital, Terrell, Texas, Respondent failed to ensure there was a current and valid physician's order for Patient Medical Record Number 280471 to remain in a Vest Restraint Mesh Posey Houdini Suit and in soft wrist restraints throughout Respondent's shift. Further, Respondent failed to assess the patient to determine whether or not the restraints were necessary and appropriate while the patient was on 1:1 observation and quite, calm and/or sleeping throughout the shift. At approximately 9:15 p.m., staff alerted Respondent that the patient "looked funny" and Respondent started CPR upon finding the patient was not breathing and did not have a pulse. The patient was emergently transported to a local acute care facility, where she was pronounced deceased. An autopsy later determined the patient died as a result of pulmonary thromboembolism due to deep venous thromboses associated with relative immobility. Sometime during Respondent's shift, Respondent pre-signed the 10 p.m. entry of the facility's Restrain/Seclusion Flowsheet, which was blank because it had not yet been completed by the nurse assistant. In addition, while Respondent was documenting the patient's code event, Respondent also entered a physician's order for the "Medical Restraint: Houdini" in the patient's medical record. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and may have contributed to the patient's subsequent demise.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states she did not falsify physician orders in this case. Respondent states she documented the order by Dr. Fisher in the medical chart later that evening because that is when she had the opportunity to do so. Respondent states she spoke to Dr. Fisher, who had agreed the order was necessary. Respondent states she had twelve (12) patients to care for that day which would be considered a huge obligation considering they were psychiatric patient's. Respondent states it was the responsibility of Dr. Kranti Purmetla, who was the treating physician, to document the use of restraints in the chart and she failed to do so. Respondent states that it cannot be proven that she falsified any records.

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)(G),(1)(M)&(3) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(A)&(6)(H).
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 563598 and Vocational Nurse License Number 124133, heretofore issued to RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM, 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 563598 and Vocational Nurse License Number 124133, previously issued to RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM, to practice nursing in Texas are 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 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.
- 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.
- D. **The course "Restraints in Long Term Care,"** a 6.0 contact hour workshop presented in various locations by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

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 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 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 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)**

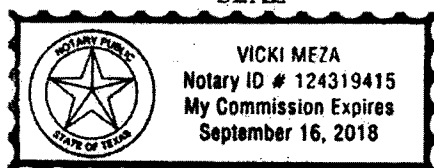
Upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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 24th day of May, 2016.Rhonda Jeanine Ransom
RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM, RespondentSworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of May, 2016

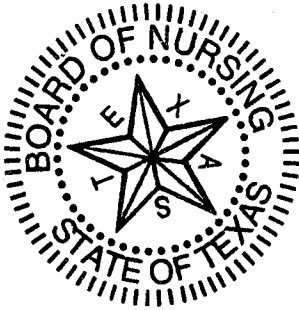
SEAL

Vicki Meza
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Bridget Eyler
Bridget Eyler, Attorney for RespondentSigned this 25 day of May, 2016.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 24th day of May, 2016, by RHONDA JEANINE RANSOM, Registered Nurse License Number 563598 and Vocational Nurse License Number 124133, and said Order is final.



Effective this 14th day of June, 2016.

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

I certify this to be a true copy
of the records on file with the
Texas Board of Nursing
Date: 6-16-16
Signed: [Signature]