



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
Vocational Nurse License Number 166695	§	
issued to ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON, Vocational Nurse License Number 166695, 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 16, 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 Shelby College Center, Center, Texas on December 18, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 24, 1998.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2/1998-2/2010	Unknown	
3/2010 - 9/2010	Charge Nurse	Willowbrook Nursing Home Nacogdoches, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/2010 - 12/2011	Unknown	
1/2012 - 7/2012	Staff Nurse	UTMB Glaveston Huntsville, Texas
8/2012 - 6/2013	Unknown	
7/2013 - 8/2014	Charge Nurse	Trinity Nursing Home San Augustine, Texas
9/2014	Unknown	
10/2014 - 12/2015	Staff Nurse	Lufkin State Supported Living Center Lufkin, Texas
1/2016 - Present	Staff Nurse	Park Manor Humble, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Lufkin State Supported Living Center, Lufkin, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and one (1) month.
7. On or about November 13, 2015, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Lufkin State Supported Living Center, Lufkin, Texas, Respondent failed to completely and adequately assess the arm of Patient V.S. Respondent was informed by another staff member that the patient's arm appeared red and swollen after which Respondent assessed there to be no redness and/or swelling. Subsequently, another staff member assessed the patient's arm, noting both bruising and swelling. The patient required transport to the Emergency Room where the patient was found to have a dislocated shoulder requiring surgical correction. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a delay in necessary medical treatment.
8. On or about December 6, 2015, through December 7, 2015, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Lufkin State Supported Living Center, Lufkin, Texas, Respondent failed to properly assess the respiratory status of Patient B.E., including failing to assess the patient's lung sounds, when the patient was on vomiting protocol and was vomiting and/or spitting up. Additionally, Respondent failed to intervene in a timely manner when she assessed the patient to be in discomfort, to have sour smelling gastric contents, and loose stools. Consequently, two (2) hours later, the patient was found to be in respiratory distress and required transport to the hospital where she later expired due to aspiration pneumonia and septic shock. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from unknown or undetected changes in condition and from a delay in necessary medical intervention, and may

have contributed to the patient's demise.

9. On or about December 6, 2015, through December 7, 2015, while employed as a Staff Nurse with Lufkin State Supported Living Center, Lufkin, Texas, Respondent inappropriately allowed the contents from the aforementioned Patient B.E.'s gastrostomy tube (G-tube) to drain continuously into a cup, failing to assess the volume of the drainage and return the contents to the patient via gravity. The G-tube port was inappropriately left open to drain out the contents and was later discovered to be draining gastric contents in large quantities on the floor. Additionally, Respondent falsely documented in the patient's medical record that the patient had zero (0) gastric residual during her shift. Respondent's conduct was deceptive, resulted in an inaccurate medical record, and was likely to injure the patient from unmonitored loss of bodily fluids and a risk of infection due to opened ports.
10. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states that in regards to Patient V.S., she was informed about the patient's arm and immediately went to assess the patient. Respondent states that she did not note any redness or swelling, and did not note the patient to be in any pain. Respondent states that by the time she went to get the Supervisor for a second opinion, another nurse had already gone into the patient room and together they worked as a team to transport the patient. In regards to Patient B.E., Respondent states that when she assessed the patient, the patient was exhibiting no signs of vomiting and had not vomited since earlier that day. Respondent states that the patient had a little bit of phlegm which was suctioned, and that the vital signs were normal. Respondent states that the patient seemed uncomfortable so she used her nursing judgement to allow the gastric contents to drain from the G-tube. Respondent states that she felt purging the patient's stomach of whatever was causing her discomfort was the best thing to do. Respondent states she left the G-tube open to continue to drain off and that she returned 30 minutes later to find the draining spilling onto the floor. Respondent states she then noted how foul the drainage was and then went to get the Registered Nurse on the floor. Respondent states that if she documented that there was no residual that this was an honest error.

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)(D),(1)(M),(1)(O),(1)(P)&(2)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4)&(6)(A).
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 166695, heretofore issued to ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON, 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 166695, previously issued to ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON, 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 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.
- C. **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.
- D. **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. 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.

V. 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 clinical 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. 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. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. 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

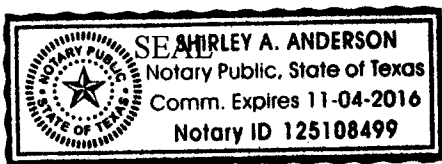
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order.

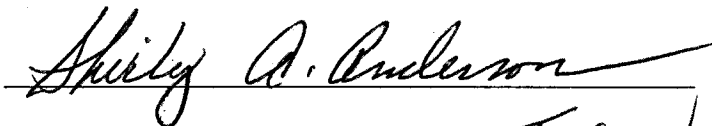
I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of 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 22 day of April, 20 16.


ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22 day of April, 20 16.




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 22nd day of April, 2016, by ALANNA YVETTE CLIFTON, Vocational Nurse License Number 166695, and said Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of June, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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