



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 223910 §
issued to MATTHEW GENE HORTON § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MATTHEW GENE HORTON, Vocational Nurse License Number 223910, 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 8, 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 Temple Junior College, Temple, Texas, on May 16, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 15, 2009.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:
09/09 - 11/10 Unknown

Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

12/10 - 09/11	Medical Officer	Milam County Jail Cameron, Texas
09/11 - 05/12	Charge LVN/ ADON	Hearne Healthcare Center Hearne, Texas
05/12 - 04/13	LVN/ Charge Nurse	Winnie L Nursing Facility Cameron, Texas
04/13 - 12/14	Treatment LVN	Hearne Healthcare Center Hearne, Texas
12/14 - Present	PRN LVN	Hearne Healthcare Center Hearne, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and six (6) months.
7. On or about October 9, 2014 and October 13, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to provide wound care for Resident SS and/or failed to document that the resident refused wound care. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the resident to risk of harm from complications associated with continued wound deterioration, and Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record.
8. On or about October 12, 2014 through October 17, 2014, while employed as a staff Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to utilize inter-dry moisture wicking fabric with antimicrobial silver sheets, as ordered by the physician, for the treatment of inflamed skin located on Resident WC's buttocks. On October 17, 2014, the resident was noted to be wearing a dry brief soaked with old blood, and the resident's buttocks was red with crusty flakes of skin. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the resident to risk of harm associated with continued skin breakdown.
9. On or about October 14, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to utilize appropriate infection control techniques while providing wound care for Resident SS in that Respondent removed a dirty dressing, cleansed the wound, and placed a clean dressing on the wound, without changing gloves or washing his hands. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the resident to risk of infection.

10. On or about October 14, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent falsely documented that he performed a weekly skin assessment for Resident UM in the resident's treatment flowsheet. Respondent subsequently admitted to the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (TDADS) surveyor that he did not perform the skin assessment for the resident. The TDADS surveyor identified three (3) new wounds on the resident. Respondent's conduct was deceptive, created an inaccurate medical record, and was likely to injure the resident in that subsequent care givers did not have accurate information on which to base their decisions for further care.
11. On or about October 14, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to utilize appropriate infection control and wound care techniques while providing wound care for Resident UM. Specifically, Respondent failed to measure and stage the wound. Respondent also failed to wash his hands and change his gloves between wound sites. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the resident to risk of infection.
12. On or about October 16, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to accurately assess and stage a pressure ulcer for Resident SS. Respondent also failed to notify the resident's physician of a change in the ulcer's condition. Respondent's conduct denied the physician information necessary to make appropriate decisions for medical care, and delayed the onset of aggressive wound care treatment.
13. On or about October 16, 2014 through October 30, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to notify the physician for Resident CS of changes in condition related to pressure ulcers for the resident. Respondent's conduct denied the physician information necessary to make appropriate decisions for medical care, and delayed the onset of aggressive wound care treatment.
14. On or about October 21, 2014, while employed as a Treatment Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with Hearne Healthcare Center, Hearne, Texas, Respondent failed to perform a weekly skin assessment for Resident UM, as ordered by the physician. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the resident to risk of harm from complications associated with continued skin breakdown.
15. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Fourteen (14), Respondent denies the allegations.
16. Formal Charges were filed on December 11, 2015.
17. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on December 16, 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)(C),(1)(D),(1)(O),(1)(P)&(2) and 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 Vocational Nurse License Number 223910, heretofore issued to MATTHEW GENE HORTON, 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 that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND 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. 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 medication administration** 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 be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the six (6) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. 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 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.

- D. **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.
- E. **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. 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.

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 20 day of April, 2016.



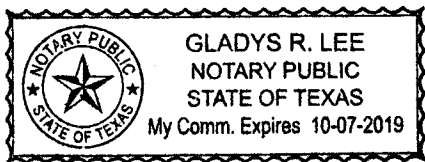
MATTHEW GENE HORTON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20 day of APRIL, 2016.

SEAL



Notary Public in and for the State of Tx.



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 20th day of April, 2016, by MATTHEW GENE HORTON, Vocational Nurse License Number 223910, 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