



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 314807 §
issued to REBECCA SUE WELCH § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of REBECCA SUE WELCH, Vocational Nurse License Number 314807, 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),(12)&(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 July 28, 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 delinquent status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from McFatter Technical Institute, Davie, Florida, on November 1, 2001. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on July 16, 2013.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

12/00 - 10/02	Unknown	
11/02 - 04/03	LVN	Florida Medical Center Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

11/02 - 04/03	LVN	Jackson Memorial Hospital Miami, Florida
05/03 - 03/04	LVN	Broward Children's Center Pompano Beach, Florida
04/2004	Unknown	
05/04 - 03/05	LVN	Hunderton County Jail Flemington, New Jersey
04/05 - 07/08	Unknown	
08/08 - 07/11	LVN	Warren County Correctional Facility Belvidere, New Jersey
04/13 - 12/14	LVN	Green Valley Health and Rehabilitation North Richland Hills, Texas
01/15 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incidents, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Green Valley Health and Rehabilitation, North Richland Hills, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and seven (7) months.
7. On or about November 2014, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Green Valley Health and Rehabilitation, North Richland Hills, Texas, Respondent may have lacked fitness to practice nursing in that Respondent stated she had just recently been diagnosed with a mental health condition that could result in an injury to a patient or the public and was having trouble getting her medication levels adjusted. Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. On or about November 21, 2014, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Green Valley Health and Rehabilitation, North Richland Hills, Texas, Respondent exceeded her scope of practice in that she administered oxygen to a person not admitted to the facility, without a valid physician's order. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the person, in that the administration of medications without a valid physician's order could result in someone suffering from adverse reactions.

9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states she disclosed to her Director of Nursing (DON) that years ago, she was diagnosed with a mild mental health condition, but had been doing well with medications and her belief system. Respondent later stated she has never been diagnosed with a mental health condition, and misspoke when she was speaking to her DON. Respondent admits she did give oxygen to a resident's wife after this woman's blood pressure was found to be very low and her oxygen saturation was at 82%. Respondent states the woman's family refused 911.
10. Formal Charges were filed on September 8, 2015.
11. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on September 14, 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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4)&(5).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10),(12)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 314807, heretofore issued to REBECCA SUE WELCH.
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. 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. 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 four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) 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 four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

V.

THERAPY

While working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL participate in therapy with a professional counselor approved by the Board.

RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the therapist to submit written reports, on forms provided by the Board, as to the RESPONDENT'S progress in therapy, rehabilitation and capability to safely practice nursing. The report must indicate whether or not the RESPONDENT'S stability is sufficient to provide direct patient care safely. For the first three (3) month quarterly period RESPONDENT works as a nurse under the terms of this Order, reports are to be submitted to the Board each and every month. If therapy is recommended by the counselor for an additional period of time, the reports shall then be submitted to the Board at the end of each three (3) month quarterly period in which the RESPONDENT is working as a nurse under the terms of this Order, for the remainder of the term of the Order, or until RESPONDENT is

dismissed from therapy, whichever is earlier.

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.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

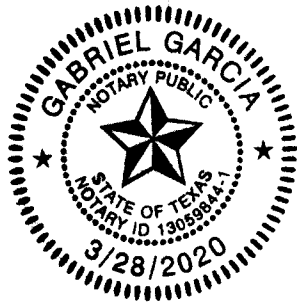
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said 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 2 day of August, 2016.
[Signature]
REBECCA SUE WELCH, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2 day of August, 2016.


SEAL

[Signature]
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 2nd day of August, 2016, by REBECCA SUE WELCH, Vocational Nurse License Number 314807, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of September, 2016.



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