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In the Matter of

AGREED

Registered Nurse License Number 239155

issued to STELLA D. TELLEZ

ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of STELLA D. TELLEZ, Registered Nurse License Number 239155, 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 September 13, 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 Texas, Austin, Texas, on May 1, 1976. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on March 23, 1977.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1977 - 1992

Staff Nurse and

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

Nurse Manager

Houston, Texas

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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1992 - 3/2005

Corporate

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital

Purchasing Agent

Houston, Texas

2005 - 2006

Unknown

3/2007 - 2/2016

Registered Nurse

Kelsey-Seybold Healthcare Clinic

Houston, Texas

3/2016-Present

Unknown

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Kelsey-Seybold Healthcare Clinic, Houston, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) years and ten (10) months.
- 7. On or about January 8, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Kelsey-Seybold Clinic, Pearland, Texas, and assigned to Vintage Clinic, Houston, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately intervene when Patient Number 43434158 called the clinic and reported symptoms of right facial muscles being flat, loose and unable to smile. Respondent failed to notify the physician of the symptoms and only left a message on the physician's answering machine, and failed to follow-up with the physician. Subsequently, the physician did not get the message regarding the patient's condition for two (2) days, then instructed the patient to immediately go to the Emergency Room (ER) where the physician diagnosed the patient with Bell's Palsy. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patientin that significant changes in the patient's status may have gone undetected and prevented a timely intervention.
- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states the patient was triaged for stroke symptoms and she documented on the patient's facial flat appearance. Respondent states the patient's symptoms had not improved since beginning medication that was prescribed earlier that week. Respondent states the patient requested a different medication, preferably an antibiotic, but did not consider his facial appearance to be serious. Respondent states she did not document this information in her notes, and explained to the patient that she would notify the physician informing him the patient is requesting another medication. Respondent states when she called the physician's office, it had already closed and informed the patient the physician may not call until that following weekend and/or on Monday when the office is open. Respondent states that she feels totally disappointed with herself for having made a grave error in nursing action and process. Respondent states when she was terminated for this error, she decided to retire from nursing and will not be renewing her license.

### **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  $\S217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(D),(1)(M)\&(1)(P)$  and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE  $\S217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)\&(4)$ .
- 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 239155, heretofore issued to STELLA D. TELLEZ.
- 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** and Respondent's license(s) shall be placed in **INACTIVE** status.

Should RESPONDENT decide in the future to reactivate his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL be required to satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation and RESPONDENT'S reactivated license(s) SHALL BE subject to, at a minimum, the remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and employer reporting which would have been requirements of this Order had Respondent not chosen to inactivate his/her nursing license(s).

# 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. I further understand that, should I decide in the future to reactivate my license(s), I will be required to satisfy, at a minimum, the additional requirements that would have been part of this Order had the license(s) not been placed in inactive status, as stated herein, as well as all then existing requirements for reactivation.

Signed this 3 day of November 2016.

STELLA D. TELLEZ, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

\_\_\_ day of November

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

JOHNNY BARBOSA
Notery ID # 130186877
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires 4-10-2019

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>3rd</u> day of <u>November</u>, 2016, by STELLA D. TELLEZ, Registered Nurse License Number 239155, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of December, 2016.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board