



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.  
*Michelle Sherman*  
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of § AGREED  
Registered Nurse License Number 878402 §  
issued to STEVEN E. HOUSENGA § ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that STEVEN E. HOUSENGA, Registered Nurse License Number 878402, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may be subject to discipline pursuant to Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 301.453, Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was conducted on September 8, 2016, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Elizabeth Higginbotham, Attorney at Law.

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 an Associate Degree in Nursing from Crowder College, Nevada, Missouri, on May 18, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Missouri on July 30, 2012; was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 3, 2015; and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Oklahoma on March 30, 2016.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:
 

7/2012-9/2012	Unknown
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/2012-7/2013	Staff Nurse	Scott & White Memorial Hospital Temple, Texas
7/2013-2/2014	Staff Nurse	Cedar Crest Hospital Belton, Texas
2/2014-Unknown	RN Supervisor	Regency Manor Healthcare Temple, Texas
4/2014-7/2014	Travel Nurse	Abilene Regional Medical Center Abilene, Texas
7/2014-Unknown	Staff Nurse	Abilene Regional Medical Center Abilene, Texas
3/2014-3/2016	Agency Nurse	Liquid Agents Plano, Texas
3/2016-Present	Staff Nurse	Comanche County Memorial Hospital Lawton, Oklahoma

6. At the time of the incidents, Respondent was employed as an Agency Nurse with Liquid Agents, Plano, Texas, and on assignment at Shannon Regional Medical Center, San Angelo, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) months.
7. On or about March 10, 2016, while employed as an Agency Nurse with Liquid Agents, Plano, Texas, and on assignment at Shannon Regional Medical Center, San Angelo, Texas, Respondent inaccurately documented that Patient Number 9072401 was Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) status, without verifying the patient's correct code status, and failed to document administration of Haldol and Benedryl in the medication administration record. Additionally, Respondent failed to document a comprehensive nursing assessment in the patient's medical record. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate and incomplete medical record, and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have accurate and complete information on which to base their care decisions.
8. On or about March 10, 2016, while employed as an Agency Nurse with Liquid Agents, Plano, Texas, and on assignment at Shannon Regional Medical Center, San Angelo, Texas, Respondent failed to ensure that the aforementioned Patient Number 9072401 was adequately monitored throughout the shift, when he had the patient's telemetry monitoring status changed to standby. The patient was found unresponsive approximately three (3) hours

later without telemetry monitoring in place. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from potentially adverse complications of undetected and untreated cardiac arrhythmias.

9. In response to the incidents in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that he was refused the option of claiming Safe Harbor when assigned Patient Number 9072401 at 11pm. Respondent states that the Paragon EMR system in use at the hospital at the time of the incidents did not have an automatic save feature activated. Respondent adds that when the respiratory therapist performed a patient intervention and accessed a new screen on the computer Respondent was using, all of Respondent's documentation was lost. Respondent states that at the point in time that he was able to recreate the documentation, an emergency event had occurred with the patient as well as urgent care for his other four (4) high acuity patients and his resulting recording of nurse's notes for Patient Number 9072401 was not as timely and precise as was his custom. Respondent provided a signed letter from a nurse who worked with him attesting to his compassionate and attentive care to his patients and professionalism with his peers.

#### 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)&(3)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(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 878402, heretofore issued to STEVEN E. HOUSENGA.
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. **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.

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](http://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. Incident Reporting:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each employer to immediately submit any and all incident, counseling, variance, unusual occurrence, and medication or other error reports involving RESPONDENT, as well as documentation of any internal investigations regarding action by RESPONDENT, to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.
- 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. 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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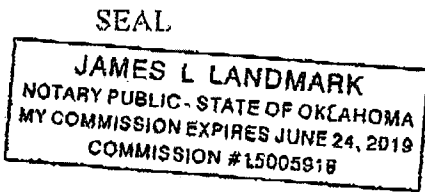
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I 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 29 day of December, 2016.

[Signature]  
STEVEN E. HOUSENGA, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of November, 2016.



[Signature]  
Notary Public in and for the State of OK

Approved as to form 7

[Signature]  
Elizabeth Higginbotham, Attorney for Respondent  
RN, JD

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28th day of November, 2016, by STEVEN E. HOUSENGA, Registered Nurse License Number 878402, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of January, 2017.

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

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