



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 Advanced Practice Registered § AGREED
Nurse License Number AP108687 §
& Registered Nurse License Number 542781 §
issued to PATRICIA ELDEEN OBRIEN § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PATRICIA ELDEEN OBRIEN, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP108687 and Registered Nurse License Number 542781, 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 February 23, 2017.

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 delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of California, Fresno, Texas, on June 1, 1975, and received a Master's Degree in Nursing from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas, on May 8, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on November 2, 1987, and was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the role of Family Nurse Practitioner with prescription authorization in the State of Texas on June 22, 1998.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

11/1987 - 02/2000	Unknown	
03/2000 - 01/2009	Family Nurse Practitioner	State of Texas Correctional Facility Briscoe Unit/UTMB Dilley, Texas
04/2005 - 11/2010	Family Nurse Practitioner	H.I. Garfield Rural Health Clinic Cotulla, Texas
11/2010 - 08/2011	Family Nurse Practitioner	Pearsall Detention Center Pearsall, Texas
Unknown	Family Nurse Practitioner	Department of Veterans Affairs/ South Texas Veterans Health Care System San Antonio, Texas

6. On or about October 10, 2013, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with the Department of Veterans Affairs, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to order and correctly document the change in the Warfarin dose, a blood thinning medication, of a veteran patient whose INR (International Normalized Ratio), which measures blood clotting, was elevated at 3.8. The veteran patient was verbally instructed to decrease his/her dosage, but it was not entered into the medical record as an order. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate 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.
7. On or about November 13, 2013, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with the Department of Veterans Affairs, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately assess and intervene for a veteran patient who presented to her with an elevated INR of 3.5, and who was prescribed both Warfarin and Amiodarone. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from clinical care decisions formulated based upon incomplete assessment information.
8. On or about December 3, 2013, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with the Department of Veterans Affairs, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent prescribed Warfarin to an eighty-one (81) year old transfer veteran patient, who had a diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, without obtaining an initial INR. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from clinical care decisions formulated based upon incomplete assessment information.
9. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Six (6), Respondent states that she instructed her nurse to inform the patient to hold his Warfarin for one (1) day, decrease his

warfarin to 2.5mg daily, then ordered an INR to be drawn in one (1) week. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent explains that it was the responsibility of the nurse to review and update the current medication list with changes and /or complaints prior to seeing her; therefore, she did not know that the patient was being treated with Amiodarone by another physician prior to this visit. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent explains that this patient was going to be treated by a non-VA physician, but he ran out of Warfarin because of a delayed appointment. Respondent states that had she ordered an INR on this Friday visit, it would have been another three (3) days before it could be done further delaying his Warfarin treatment. Respondent states that she wrote a prescription for 7 days and ordered an INR for the following week.

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)(M) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4)&(10)(B).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP108687 and Registered Nurse License Number 542781, heretofore issued to PATRICIA ELDEEN OBIEN.
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 petition the Board for reactivation of the license and satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation. Further, 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).

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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. 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.

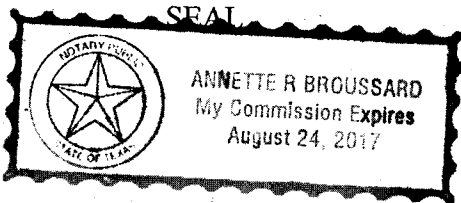
Signed this 14 day of March, 2017.

Patricia Eldeen O'Brien
PATRICIA ELDEEN O'BRIEN, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14TH day of March, 2017.

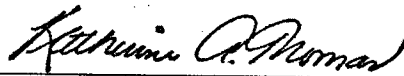
Annette Broussard

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 14th day of March, 2017, by PATRICIA ELDEEN O'BRIEN, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP108687 and Registered Nurse License Number 542781, and said Order is final.

Effective this 20th day of April, 2017.



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