



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

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In the Matter of § AGREED  
Registered Nurse License Number 851560 §  
issued to DEBRA SOMERS STEINER § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DEBRA SOMERS STEINER, Registered Nurse License Number 851560, 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 April 10, 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 current status.
4. Respondent received an Associate's Degree in Nursing from College of the Canyons, Valencia, California, on December 18, 1992. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 14, 2014.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

12/1991 - 08/1993	Staff Nurse	Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Sylmar, California
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/1993 - 03/1999	Staff Nurse	Carson Tahoe Hospital Carson City, Nevada
11/2013 - 04/2014	School Nurse	Kerrville ISD Kerrville, Texas
05/2014 - Present	Staff Nurse	Kerrville State Hospital Kerrville, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Kerrville State Hospital, Kerrville, Texas, and had been in that position for two (2) years and three (3) months.
7. On or about September 4, 2016 through September 20, 2016, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Kerrville State Hospital, Kerrville, Texas, Respondent violated the boundaries of the nurse/client relationship in that she contacted patient Medical Record Number 234428 on multiple occasions, from her home phone and cellular phone, after working hours. Respondent's conduct violated the professional boundaries of the nurse-client relationship and was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states she felt compelled to assist patient Medical Record Number 234428 because he had not received his risk assessment in a timely manner, which prevented him from being discharged from the facility. Respondent admits to providing the patient with her personal phone number and contacting the patient after working hours.

#### 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)(J) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(4)&(6)(D).
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 851560, heretofore issued to DEBRA SOMERS STEINER.

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 **REMEDIAL EDUCATION** 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.
- C. **The course "Professional Boundaries in Nursing,"** a 3.0 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. **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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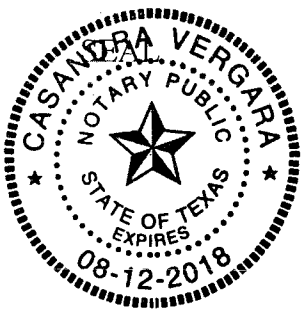
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2017.

Debra Somers Steiner  
DEBRA SOMERS STEINER, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23 day of May, 2017.



Casandra Vergara

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 23rd day of May, 2017, by DEBRA SOMERS STEINER, Registered Nurse License Number 851560, and said Order is final.

Effective this 26th day of May, 2017.



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