



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.
Patricia A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 779888 §
& Vocational Nurse License Number 206359 §
issued to AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE § ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE, Registered Nurse License Number 779888 and Vocational Nurse License Number 206359, 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 May 19, 2015, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code. Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Catherine Tabor, 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Wharton Community College, Richmond, Texas and received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Prairie View A&M College, Houston, Texas, on December 19, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 21, 2006 and licensed to practice

professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 26, 2010.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

8/2006 - 12/2008	LVN Staff Nurse	Sugar Land Health Care Center Sugar Land, Texas
12/2007 - 4/2010	Nurse III	Richmond State Supported Living Center Richmond, Texas
5/2010 - 11/2010	Nurse II	Richmond State Supported Living Center Richmond, Texas
2010 - 2011	PRN Staff Nurse	Consolidated Healthcare Houston, Texas
4/2012 - Present	Staff Nurse	Criseven Health Care Houston, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Richmond State Supported Living Center, Richmond, Texas, and had been in that position for two (2) years and ten (10) months.

7. On October 8, 2010, while employed with Richmond State Supported Living Center, Richmond, Texas, Respondent falsely documented an assessment, including vital signs of Patient DT at 4:30a.m. The patient who was found at 5:00a.m., unresponsive and not breathing due to injuries inflicted by a Direct Care Staff, who struck Patient DT in the abdomen with an unknown object. Patient DT died as the result of his injuries and autopsy results revealed that vital signs would not have been detectable at 4:30a.m. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record.

8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent denies that she made false entries in the chart of patient DT. She charted the vital signs as she read them and noted them in the patient's record. The patient was unable to communicate and could not tell her that a Direct Care Staff had struck him in the abdomen. The Direct Care Staff was later convicted for injury to a disabled person. Respondent was tried and acquitted of any wrongdoing in the death of the patient. The Respondent alleges that on the day of the incident she made rounds and charted the vital signs of the patient as she found them.

9. Formal Charges were filed on July 12, 2011.

10. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 12, 2011.

11. First Amended Formal Charges were filed on May 29, 2014.

12. First Amended Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on May 30, 2014.

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)&(3) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4) &(6)(A).
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 779888 and Vocational Nurse License Number 206359, heretofore issued to AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
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, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that Registered Nurse License Number 779888 and Vocational Nurse License Number 206359, previously issued to AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE, to practice nursing in Texas are hereby **SUSPENDED** with the suspension **STAYED** and Respondent is hereby placed on **PROBATION**, in accordance with the terms of this Order, for a minimum of two (2) years **AND** until Respondent fulfills the requirements 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 physical assessment** with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours. Both the didactic and clinical components must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include physical assessment of all body systems. The clinical component SHALL include physical assessment of live patients in a clinical setting; Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. Successful completion of this course requires RESPONDENT to successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course.

- C. **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.
- D. 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. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL **pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order.** Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse, providing direct patient care in a licensed healthcare setting, **for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month** for eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. As an exception to requirement, RESPONDENT has been accepted by Walden University to begin course work in a Masters program in nursing and to obtain a Masters degree in nursing (MSN). Clinical practicum hours in the MSN program at Walden University will be accepted to fulfill either direct or indirect

supervision requirements of this Order. The RESPONDENT shall notify Walden University and present such with a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) 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. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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. Indirect Supervision:** For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, 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.
- E. 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 eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] of employment as a nurse.

VI. FURTHER COMPLAINTS

If, during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license(s), the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

VII. 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.

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 any 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 suspension of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

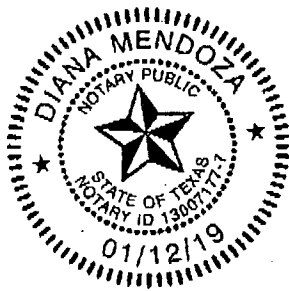
Signed this 15 day of January, 2016.

A. Oparanozie

AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15 day of January, 2016.

SEAL



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

Approved as to form and substance.

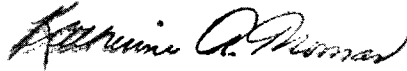
Catherine Tabor

Catherine Tabor, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 14th day of January, 2016

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 15th day of January, 2016, by AMARA ULOAKU OPARANOZIE, Registered Nurse License Number 779888 and Vocational Nurse License Number 206359, and said Order is final.

Effective this 8th day of March, 2016.



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