



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or its 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 § AGREED  
Registered Nurse License Number 776383 §  
issued to CHRISTINE SOLANO CORTES § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINE SOLANO CORTES, Registered Nurse License Number 776383, 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 October 9, 2015.

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 Brookhaven College, Farmers Branch, Texas, on May 14, 2009. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on October 13, 2009.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

10/2009 - 05/2013	RN	Baylor University Medical Center Dallas, Texas
06/2013 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately three (3) years and six (6) months.
7. On or about April 1, 2013, through May 30, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse in the Post-anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) with Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent falsely documented that she administered 0.5mg of Hydromorphone each to Patient Numbers 10118123 and 00193670 in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR), when there were no medication withdraws from the Omnicell medication dispensing system associated with the documented times of administration. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record, and failure to administer medications as ordered by the physician could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
8. On or about April 1, 2013, through May 30, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse in the Post-anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) with Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent withdrew two (2) ampules of Fentanyl, one (1) syringe of Lorazepam and one (1) carpject of Hydromorphone from the Omnicell medication dispensing system for Patient Numbers 10128464, 01232082 and 10118123, but failed to document, or completely and accurately document the administration of the medications in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurse's Notes. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patients, which could result in an overdose. Respondent's conduct also placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
9. On or about April 1, 2013, through May 30, 2013, while employed as a Registered Nurse in the Post-anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) with Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, Respondent withdrew six (6) ampules of Fentanyl, seven (7) carpjects of Hydromorphone, two (2) syringes of Lorazepam and one (1) vial of Diphenhydramine from the Omnicell medication dispensing system for patients, but failed to follow the facility's policy and procedures for wastage of any of the unused portions of the medications. Without the proper documentation of wastage the six (6) ampules of Fentanyl, seven (7) carpjects of Hydromorphone, two (2) syringes of Lorazepam and one (1) vial of Diphenhydramine from the Omnicell remain unaccounted for. Respondent's conduct left medications unaccounted for, was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy, and placed the hospital in violation of Chapter 481 (Controlled Substances Act) of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states she was a float nurse, assigned to assist other nurses and her own assigned patients as well. Respondent states she was concentrated on delivering safe, compassionate care to her patients who were experiencing post-surgical pain, and Fentanyl and Dilaudid were drugs that were given very frequently in the PACU. Respondent states there were many instances

in which she appropriately documented, but there were also some instances of incomplete documentation. Respondent states she did not fail to waste unused narcotics, but she does acknowledge that she may have had documentation gaps. Respondent denies misappropriating any medications.

11. On or about August 22, 2015, Respondent successfully completed a Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics, which would have been a requirement of this order.

### 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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B), (1)(C),(4),(6)(A),(6)(H),(10)(B),(10)(C)&(11)(B).
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 776383, heretofore issued to CHRISTINE SOLANO CORTES.
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 medication administration 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 be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the six (6) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. 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.
- 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, providing direct patient care in a licensed 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.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

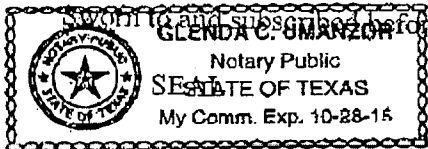
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

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 19 day of October, 2015.

Christine Solano Cortes  
CHRISTINE SOLANO CORTES, Respondent



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of October, 2015.

Glenda C Umanson  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance. NRW

Nancy Roper Willson  
Nancy Roper Willson, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 19 day of October, 2015

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015, by CHRISTINE SOLANO CORTES, Registered Nurse License Number 776383, and said Order is final.

Effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.



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