



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 921835 §  
& Vocational Nurse License Number 234232 §  
issued to BETHANY TUCKER § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of BETHANY TUCKER, Registered Nurse License Number 921835 and Vocational Nurse License Number 234232, 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 August 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 vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current 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 Central Texas College, Killeen, Texas, on December 17, 2010, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Texas State Technical College West, Sweetwater, Texas, on April 28, 2017. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 24, 2011, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on May 25, 2017.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

03/11 - 04/11	Unknown	
05/11 - 10/13	LVN	Austin State Hospital Austin, Texas
08/12 - 01/14	LVN	Pediatric Services of America Austin, Texas
02/14 - 12/15	LVN	Allied Health Group San Antonio, Texas
01/16 - 07/17	LVN/RN	Patient's Premier Choice Home Healthcare Austin, Texas
08/17 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered with Patient's Premier Choice Home Healthcare, Austin, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately one (1) year and four (4) months.

7. On or about May 16, 2017, through May 24, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Patient's Premier Choice Home Healthcare, Austin, Texas, Respondent inappropriately allowed her husband to complete Skilled Nursing Flowsheets for Patient Medical Record Number 1750764205. Respondents conduct was deceptive and created an inaccurate medical record.

8. On or about May 16, 2017, through May 24, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Patient's Premier Choice Home Healthcare, Austin, Texas, Respondent disclosed confidential health information concerning Patient Medical Record Number 1750764205, in that she allowed her husband to complete the patient's Skilled Nursing Flowsheets. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from use, accessing or disclosure of his confidential medical information without written authorization and placed the facility in the violation of HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act).

9. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states she was diagnosed with tendonitis on her right index finger, and so for a week, she jotted down the patient's vital signs and any notable events throughout the day and then dictated the information to her spouse to document. Respondent admits she should not have assumed duty if she wasn't able to write on the flowsheet. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states there is no HIPAA violation because her family and the patient's family are close.

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)(E) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(E),(4),(6)(A),(6)(H)&(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 Registered Nurse License Number 921835 and Vocational Nurse License Number 234232, heretofore issued to BETHANY TUCKER.
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 RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REMEDIAL EDUCATION WITH A FINE** 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. UNDERSTANDING BOARD ORDERS

Within thirty (30) days of entry of this Order, RESPONDENT must successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders," which can be accessed on the Board's website from the "Discipline & Complaints" drop-down menu or directly at: <http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp>. Upon successful completion, RESPONDENT must submit the course verification at the conclusion of the course, which automatically transmits the verification to the Board.

## IV. 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 "Patient Privacy,"** a 5.4 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).*

V. **MONETARY FINE**

RESPONDENT SHALL **pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) 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.

VI. **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.

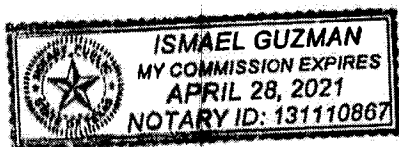
Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

B. TUCKER

BETHANY TUCKER, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

SEAL



[Signature]  
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 12th day of September, 2017, by BETHANY TUCKER, Registered Nurse License Number 921835 and Vocational Nurse License Number 234232, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of October, 2017.



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