



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	§	AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 843333	§	
issued to ELIZABETH WONG	§	ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ELIZABETH WONG, Registered Nurse License Number 843333, 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 July 16, 2018.

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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, on May 18, 2013. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 22, 2013.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2013-2014	Registered Nurse	Bellaire ER Bellaire, Texas
-----------	------------------	--------------------------------

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

2014-2015	Registered Nurse	Nexus Specialty Hospital Shenandoah, Texas
2015-2016	Registered Nurse	Memorial Hermann- TMC Houston, Texas
5/2016- Present	Registered Nurse	Memorial Hermann- The Woodlands Medical Center The Woodlands, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann- The Woodlands Medical Center, The Woodlands, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and four (4) months.
7. On or about September 29, 2017, through September 30, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Memorial Hermann- The Woodlands Medical Center, The Woodlands, Texas, Respondent failed to advocate for Patient DG and escalate the situation when the patient experienced a decline in status throughout her shift, with oxygen desaturation, worsening tachypnea, and elevated temperature. Respondent sent the physician a text message at the beginning of her shift but there was no response, with no follow-up until 0530. Additionally, Respondent failed to clarify tube feeding orders with the physician and obtain approval to use the newly inserted nasogastric tube (NGT) prior to initiating tube feedings. Subsequently, the patient experienced respiratory failure, requiring intubation, and aspiration pneumonia. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from a delay in necessary interventions to address the patient's respiratory status.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that at the beginning of her shift, she carried out physician orders to place a NGT and confirmed placement by auscultation and X-ray. Respondent states that the patient was stable prior to 0530 on nasal cannula, except for a few agitation episodes that she believed were due to delirium tremens, where the patient then required a non-rebreather mask to maintain good oxygen saturation. Respondent states that she sent a text message to the attending physician about the patient's status and did not receive a reply. Respondent adds that she also informed the charge nurse about the patient's status and did not receive any recommendations. Respondent states that based on an order entered on the previous day shift to start tube feedings, Respondent then started tube feedings for the patient at 0200. Respondent states that she called the attending physician at 0530, because she became aware that the patient's chest X-ray revealed opacities, and because he was experiencing desaturations that were not resolved with the non-rebreather mask. Respondent states that at the time, she thought she was doing everything she could to keep her patient safe and stable, but in hindsight, she should have done more. Respondent states that she has changed her practice as a result of

this experience, such as asking more questions, seeking advice and recommendations from multiple nurses, and communicating more often with charge nurses and physicians. Respondent states that she recognizes that she should have made further attempts to contact the physician regarding the patient's status, and get a current order to starting tube feedings after placement of the NGT.

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),(1)(M),(1)(P)&(3)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A)&(4).
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 843333, heretofore issued to ELIZABETH WONG, 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 that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND 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. As a result of this Order, Respondent's license(s) will be designated "single state" and Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas in another

nurse licensure compact party state.

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.

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.*

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as a nurse in the State of Texas, providing direct patient care in a clinical healthcare setting, for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month for eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) quarterly periods of employment as a nurse have elapsed. 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. Indirect Supervision:** 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.
- 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 individual who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising individual 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. 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, subject to meeting all existing eligibility requirements in Texas Occupations Code Chapter 304, Article III, RESPONDENT may be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

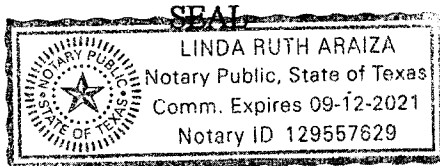
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 13th day of October, 2018.

ELIZABETH WONG, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of October, 2018.



Linda R Araiza
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Jeff B McClure
Jeffrey McClure, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 15th day of October, 2018.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 13th day of October, 2018, by ELIZABETH WONG, Registered Nurse License Number 843333, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13th day of November, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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