



**BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS**

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**KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

July 29, 1998

Earl W. Staeger
9112 Lait
El Paso TX 79925

Dear Mr. Staeger:

This office has verified your attendance at the Board's workshop which meets the Board's requirements for a course in nursing jurisprudence. Our files now reflect your completion of the requirements of the Order of the Board issued in January of 1998.

Your new license, which will no longer bear the restricted designation, will be mailed to you within the next few days.

If you have any questions, you may reach me at (512) 305-6834.

Sincerely,

Korena Schaaf
Investigator
Monitoring



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

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Permanent Certificate §
Number 578466 issued to § AGREED ORDER
EARL WILLIAM STAEGER §

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of EARL WILLIAM STAEGER, license number 578466, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Article 4525(b)(9), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice, hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on August 27, 1997, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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.
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in Texas.
4. Respondent received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, in January, 1970, from Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from El Paso Community College, El Paso, Texas, in December, 1991. Respondent received his license to practice professional nursing in Texas in March 1992.

5. Respondent's professional employment history includes:

March 1992-July 1996	Staff Nurse Critical Care Unit R.E. Thomason Hospital El Paso, Texas
August 1996-April 1997	Staff Nurse & Relief Charge Nurse Critical Care Unit Columbia Medical Center East El Paso, Texas
April 1997-Present	Admission/Staff Nurse Columbia Home Health, Incorporated El Paso, Texas 79902

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse in the Intermediate Care Unit of the Critical Care Department with R.E. Thomason Hospital, El Paso, Texas, and had been in this position for four (4) years and six (6) months.
7. On July 16, 1996, while employed at R.E. Thomason Hospital, El Paso, Texas, in the Intermediate Care Unit of the Critical Care Department, Respondent failed to administer medications and treatments in a responsible manner. The physician of patient I.D. # 745981 had written orders at 0655 to administer three intravenous potassium boluses, change an indwelling foley catheter to a condom catheter, change the intravenous fluid rate, obtain lab values, and begin ambulation with the Physical Therapy Department. Respondent admits that he initiated the orders towards the end of his 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. shift, but failed to document his actions. Failure to initiate the physician orders in a timely manner exposed the patient to hypokalemia. Hypokalemia may result in episodes of muscular weakness, paralysis, tetany, postural hypotension. Failure to initiate other orders exposed the patient to a delay in the healing process.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Article 4525, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Article 4525(b)(9), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.13(3)&(4).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Article 4525(b), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., to take disciplinary action against license number 578466, heretofore issued to EARL WILLIAM STAEGER.

AGREED SANCTIONS

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a Warning with Remedial Education, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Art. 4513 et. seq., the Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 et. seq. and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-size license issued to EARL WILLIAM STAEGER, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days of the date of this Order for appropriate notation.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing jurisprudence. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience must include registered nurses. It must be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. The course's content should include the Nursing Practice Act, standards of practice, and documentation of care. Courses focusing on malpractice issues will not be accepted. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board,

to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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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 violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree and consent to the issuance of the Agreed Order, the Agreed Sanctions, and any condition stated in this 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.

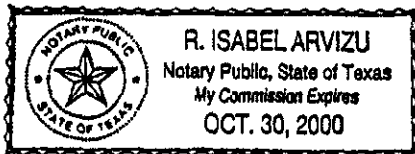
Signed this 25 day of November, 19 97.

Earl William Staeger
EARL WILLIAM STAEGER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25 day of November, 19 97.

SEAL


R. Isabel Arvizu
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



License included with this letter. CS

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 25th day of November, 1997, by EARL WILLIAM STAEGER, license number 578466, and said Order is final.

Effective this 22nd day of January, 1998.


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