



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 ORDER
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License	§	
Number AP125809 with Prescription	§	
Authorization Number 15926	§	
& Registered Nurse License Number 737954	§	
issued to MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP125809 with Prescription Authorization Number 15926, and Registered Nurse License Number 737954, 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 Agreed Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on April 19, 2019.

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 Agreed Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status. Respondent's license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Midwife is in current status with Prescription Authorization Number 15926 in current status.

4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, on December 16, 2006. Respondent completed a Nurse Midwife Program from University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 1, 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 6, 2007. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Midwife on June 13, 2014. Respondent was licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing in the State of Texas with authorization as a Nurse Midwife with Prescription Authorization on June 13, 2014.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2/2007 – 1/2014	Registered Nurse	Baylor Regional Medical Center of Grapevine Grapevine, Texas
2/2014 – 7/2014	Unknown	
8/2014 – 8/2015	Certified Nurse Midwife	MadeWell OBGYN/MadeWell Med & Birth Dallas, Texas
4/2016 – 6/2017	Certified Nurse Midwife	Grace OBGYN & Midwifery Fort Worth, Texas
9/2015 – 11/2018	Certified Nurse Midwife	Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness Center Fort Worth, Texas
7/2018 – 1/2019	Certified Nurse Midwife	Tennison Women's Health Center Garland, Texas
1/2019 - Present	Certified Nurse Midwife	Lewisville Women's Care Lewisville, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Certified Nurse Midwife with Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness Center, Fort Worth, Texas, and had been in that position for three (3) years.

7. On or about September 26, 2018, while employed as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness Center, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent failed to timely and appropriately escalate the care of Patient C.C. when Respondent performed an amniotomy on the patient and noted the presence of thick meconium to the patient and her family at 19:35. Subsequently, rather than transfer the patient for a higher level of care with closer fetal monitoring, Patient C.C. remained at the birthing center to labor until 22:34 when fetal bradycardia was detected and the patient was emergently transferred to Texas Health

Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth where the patient underwent an emergency cesarean section and delivered a son who was diagnosed with severe hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy.

8. On or about September 26, 2018, while employed as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness Center, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately obtain and monitor the vital signs of the aforementioned Patient C.C. in that she failed to obtain a set of vital signs, including the patient's temperature, after performing an amniotomy at 19:35. In addition, Respondent failed to appropriately monitor the fetal heart rate in that fetal heart tones were auscultated and recorded at 21:50, 22:05, 22:20, and 22:34 instead of every five (5) minutes.
9. On or about September 26, 2018, while employed as a Certified Nurse Midwife at Fort Worth Birthing & Wellness Center, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent failed to accurately and completely document the presence of meconium in the medical record of the aforementioned Patient C.C. when Respondent performed an amniotomy on the patient in that Respondent did not document the color or consistency of the fluid. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record.
10. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that meconium is a common occurrence for post-date deliveries. Respondent states that birth center guidelines warrant transfer with particulate meconium. Respondent states that continued assessment of Fetal Heart Tones (FHTs), adequate labor progress and non-particulate meconium were noted and were within range that allowed the patient to remain at the birth center. Patient C.C., her spouse and their family were informed of the meconium, the continued surveillance, and possible need to transfer for worsening meconium. Respondent states that upon the discovery of fetal bradycardia, immediate interventions (maternal position change, oxygen application, fetal scalp stimulation) were attempted to raise the fetal heart rate without success. Respondent adds that in less than one (1) minute, Patient C.C. was transferred to the hospital. In response to the incidents in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states that maternal blood pressures, temperature and respirations were monitored in a timely manner; per policy at the birth center, maternal blood pressure should be assessed every two to four hours during active labor. Respondent states that slightly elevated blood pressures were attributed to maternal pain and activity. Respondent states that Patient C.C. remained asymptomatic in her care, not reporting headache, visual disturbances, and/or epigastric pain. Respondent states that intermittent auscultation was used during the labor of Patient C.C. Respondent states that heart tones were obtained per birth center guidelines. Respondent states that FHTs were

taken every five (5) minutes per policy at first attempt at pushing. When pushing ceased and Patient C.C. was laboring down, FHTs were taken every thirty minutes. This explains the change in timing of auscultation, Patient C.C. was at that time being allowed to labor on her own, allowing her time to rest. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Nine (9), Respondent states that documentation shows that Patient C.C. was admitted to the birth center following one hour of triage, due to latent labor upon arrival to the birth center. Her labor continued to progress at a satisfactory rate with active labor to complete in approximately six (6) hours. Respondent provided a timeline of her labor progress.

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) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B)&(4).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP125809 with Prescription Authorization Number 15926, and Registered Nurse License Number 737954, heretofore issued to MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA.
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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP125809 with Prescription Authorization Number 15926, and Registered Nurse License Number 737954, previously issued to MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA, to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are hereby **SUSPENDED** and said suspension is **STAYED** and

RESPONDENT is hereby placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum of two (2) years **AND** until RESPONDENT fulfills the additional 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. 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 Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed 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 and video programs will not be approved.
- 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.*

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered 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 an advanced practice registered nurse

have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) license will not apply to this period and will not count towards completion of this requirement. Further, Respondent may not work as a registered nurse (RN) or a vocational nurse (LVN) license, as applicable, while under the terms of this Order.

- A. **Notifying Present and Future Employers, Practice Sites and Credentialing Agencies:** RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT'S license(s). RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. While under the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers, practice sites and/or credentialing agencies in nursing and present a complete copy of this Order, including all attachments, if any, to each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing prior to accepting an offer of employment and/or assignment.
- B. **Notification of Employment Forms:** RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form, which is provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer, practice site and/or credentialing agency in nursing to submit the Board's "Notification of Employment" form, which is provided to the RESPONDENT by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.
- C. **Indirect Supervision:** RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who is on the premises. The supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician shall have a minimum of two (2) years of experience in the same or similar practice setting to which the RESPONDENT is currently working. If being supervised by an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, the supervising APRN must be in the same advanced role and population focus area as RESPONDENT. 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 supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician who supervises the RESPONDENT and these reports shall be submitted by the supervising Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician 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 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 Agreed 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 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 this Order is subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing and a copy of this Order will be mailed to me once the Order becomes effective. 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) and/or privileges to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 30 day of August, 2019.

MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA, CNM
MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of August, 2019.

SEAL

Sheila Rae Grosvirt

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.

Brynn
Bridget Eyles, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 3 day of September, 2019.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 30th day of August, 2019, by MEAGAN LEANA ALPHA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP125809, and Registered Nurse License Number 737954, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 24th day of October, 2019.



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