BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of §

Registered Nurse License Number 671633

issued to LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD

§ § AGREED ORDER

xecutive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD, Registered Nurse License Number 671633, 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)(1) & (10), 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 August 29, 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 delinquent status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, on May 20, 1979. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 26, 2000.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

09/1979-12/1979

Unknown

09/1979-12/1979

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

1980-1990	Registered Nurse	United States Air Force Various locations
1991-1995	Unknown	·
1996	Home Health Care Supervisor	Medical Center Home Tallahassee, FL
1997-1998	Registered Nurse	Pikes Peak Hospice Colorado Springs, CO
1998-1999	Registered Nurse	Life Care Center Colorado Springs, CO
2000	Unknown	
2001	School Nurse	St. Pius X Catholic San Antonio, TX
2002-2005	Unknown	
2006	Registered Nurse	Christus VNA Hospice San Antonio, TX
2006-02/2007	Registered Nurse	Hope Hospice New Braunfels, TX
02/2007-07/2007	Registered Nurse	Odyssey Hospice San Antonio, TX
01/2007-05/2017	Registered Nurse	Laurel Ridge Treatment San Antonio, TX
06/2017-Present	Unknown	

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^{6.} On or about October 26, 2017, Respondent was issued the sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations through an Order of the Board. A copy of the October 26, 2017, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Agreed Order.

- 7. On or about October 27, 2018, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on October 26, 2017, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Roman Numeral IV. Remedial Education Course(s) (A), of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part: 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.
- 8. On or about October 27, 2018, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on October 26, 2017, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Roman Numeral IV. Remedial Education Course(s) (B), of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part: 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:
 - B. A Board-approved course in physical assessment with a didactic portion of not less than six (6) hours and a clinical component of not less than twenty-four (24) hours.
- 9. On or about October 27, 2018, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on October 26, 2017, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Roman Numeral IV. Remedial Education Course(s) (C), of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part: 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:
 - 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.
- 10. Respondent stated that she has no intentions on completing the courses, due to being retired.

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 §217.12 (11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1) & (10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 671633, heretofore issued to LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **REPRIMAND WITH STIPULATIONS** and RESPONDENT'S license(s) shall be placed in **INACTIVE** status.

Should RESPONDENT decide in the future to reactivate his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL be required to petition the Board for reactivation of the license and satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation. Further, RESPONDENT'S reactivated license(s) SHALL BE subject to, at a minimum, the remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and employer reporting which would have been requirements of this Order had RESPONDENT not chosen to inactivate his/her nursing license(s).

Until such time that RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas is/are reactivated, RESPONDENT SHALL NOT use a Privilege to Practice Nursing in the State of Texas from any Nurse License Compact member state.

II. SUPERSEDING ORDER

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that the sanction and conditions of this Agreed Order SHALL supersede all previous stipulations required by any Order entered by the Texas Board of Nursing.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this 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 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. I further understand that, should I decide in the future to reactivate my license(s), I will be required to satisfy, at a minimum, the additional requirements that would have been part of this Order had the license(s) not been placed in inactive status, as stated herein, as well as all then existing requirements for reactivation.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this $\frac{7^{-1}}{2}$

day of October, 20/9

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of fe

KIRBY PARKER

Notary Public, State of Texas

Comm. Expires 06-10-2021

Notary ID 129452386

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 7th day of October, 2019, by LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD, Registered Nurse License Number 671633, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 12th day of November, 2019.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board



accuracy and true copy of the docur
is on file or is of record in the office
Texas Board of Nursing.

Attract.

Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED Registered Nurse License Number 671633 \$

issued to LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD & ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD, Registered Nurse License Number 671633, 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 17, 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 professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas, on May 20, 1979. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Kansas on September 4, 1979. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Missouri on July 27, 1990. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Florida on January 30, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Colorado on March 28, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 26, 2000.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

09/1979-12/1979	Unknown	
1980-1990	Registered Nurse	United States Air Force Various locations
1991-1995	Unknown	
1996	Home Health Care Supervisor	Medical Center Home Health Care Services Tallahassee, Florida
1997-1998	Registered Nurse	Pikes Peak Hospice Colorado Springs, Colorado
1998-1999	Registered Nurse	Life Care Center . Colorado Springs, Colorado
2000	Unknown	
2001	School Nurse	St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School San Antonio, Texas
2002-2005	Unknown	•
2006	Registered Nurse	Christus VNA Hospice San Antonio, Texas
2006-02/2007	Registered Nurse	Hope Hospice New Braunfels, Texas
02/2007-07/2007	Registered Nurse	Odyssey Hospice San Antonio, Texas
01/2007-05/2017	Registered Nurse	Laurel Ridge Treatment Center San Antonio, Texas
06/2017-Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) years and four (4) months.
- 7. On or about May 2, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to further assess Patient T.C. and notify the physician of the patient's change in condition after documenting abnormal assessment findings including an oxygen saturation high of 85% and use of accessory muscles in ventilation. Subsequently, the oncoming nurse noted the patient was in respiratory distress, and the patient was emergently transferred to a higher level of care and admitted for treatment of acute respiratory failure. Respondent's conduct deprived the patient of the benefit of timely medical intervention.
- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states this was her third night working with the patient, who had diagnoses of Alcohol Use Disorder and COPD. Respondent states the patient explained on the first night that she was dependent on oxygen, except when smoking, but she couldn't stand to have both her cannula and CPAP mask on indefinitely. Respondent states the patient also said she usually sleeps in a recliner due to her COPD, so in order to accommodate the patient, Respondent went to another unit to find a recliner, but was unable to locate one, so she used an egg crate mattress divided into thirds to help the patient sleep at a 45-degree angle. Respondent states she asked two different day shift nurses to talk to the patient's physician about possible discharge after the second night since the patient had completed detox and Respondent was concerned about her ability to sleep, the bed situation, and her hypoxia; this was not done. Respondent states the patient's oxygen saturations were running in the low 90s, her blood pressure was within normal limits, her respiratory rate was elevated, her heart rate was in the low 90s, and she was using accessory muscles at various times while sitting or resting.

Respondent states on the third night she was still concerned about the patient due to what Respondent considered an increase in respiratory effort, but thought it was due to the patient's position in bed, as she had slept supine this night and did not use the egg crate. Respondent states she did not obtain the patient's blood pressure because she was finally sleeping well and Respondent did not want to disturb her, but states she was able to obtain a normal heart rate and her respiratory rate of 26 breaths per minute coincided with her disease process. Respondent states the patient's oxygen saturation of 86% did concern her, but considering the patient's position and diagnosis, Respondent believed it was acceptable.

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), and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(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 Registered Nurse License Number 671633, heretofore issued to LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD, 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. 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. A Board-approved course in physical assessment 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 must be provided by the same Registered Nurse. The course's content shall include physical assessment of all body systems. The clinical component SHALL include physical assessment of live patients in a clinical setting; Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. 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.

C. The course <u>"Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"</u> 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 preapproved 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: For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this Order, 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. Incident Reporting: For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, 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.
- E. 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 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 21 day of_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this $2/\frac{3}{3}$ day of

KIRBY PARKER

Notary ID 129452386

SEAL

lotary Public, State of Texas Comm. Expires 06-10-2021

Notary Public in and for the State of 1exas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 21st day of September, 2017, by LYNNE ANSON LITTLEFIELD, Registered Nurse License Number 671633, and said Order is final.

Effective this 26th day of October, 2017.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board