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Katherine A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of § AGREED ORDER
Vocational Nurse License Number 330339 § FOR
issued to MEGAN ELIZABETH CRIPPEN § KSTAR PROGRAM
§

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MEGAN ELIZABETH CRIPPEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 330339, 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 for KSTAR Program approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on January 22, 2020.

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 for KSTAR Program.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Austin Community College, Austin, Texas, on December 1, 2015. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 2, 2016.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2/2016 – 8/2016	Licensed Vocational Nurse	Baylor Scott & White Pflugerville, Texas
8/2016-7/2017	Licensed Vocational Nurse	CHI St. Joseph Manor Bryan, Texas
7/2017	Licensed Vocational Nurse	Lampstand Nursing and Rehab Bryan, Texas
8/2017 – Unknown	Licensed Vocational Nurse	New Hope Manor Cedar Park, Texas
2/2018-9/2019	Licensed Vocational Nurse	Cedar Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center Cedar Park, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse at Cedar Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Cedar Park, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and seven (7) months.
7. On or about September 14, 2019, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse at Cedar Ridge Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Cedar Park, Texas, Respondent applied three doses of 2mg Lorazepam gel to Resident GR, without a physician's order. The medication was ordered for another resident, and was not documented as being used on that resident's controlled drug record. Additionally, Respondent failed to notify hospice services and/or the resident's physician about the incident and the resident's behavior. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record, and exposed the resident to a risk of harm from possible over dosage of a sedating medication.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that this was an uncontrollable emergent situation. Respondent states that the resident was acting aggressively, trying to break down the front door, punching Respondent in the back, and could not be redirected. Respondent states that the resident threw a vase in the hallway, and staff members had to move residents and families out of the way. Respondent states that at that time, she did the only thing she could think of, and went to the nurse's office and obtained lorazepam gel from the fridge and applied it to the resident. Respondent states she administered three doses because she thought the topical absorption rate was slow and unreliable. Respondent adds that she knew the resident had the same medication ordered for the oral route, and did not have an allergy; she did not think the resident would take a pill at that time. Respondent states the event was self-reported to the administrator and health services director, and the hospice nurse was notified at the first opportunity. Respondent states that the hospice nurse and physician were not notified at the time because this was not a new behavior or a change in condition. Respondent states that she never attempted to conceal use of the gel, she was just busy caring for sixty residents.

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)(C),(1)(D)&(1)(P) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(1)(C).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 330339, heretofore issued to MEGAN ELIZABETH CRIPPEN.
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 **WARNING 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 Nursing Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§211.1 *et seq.*, and this Agreed Order for KSTAR Program.

III. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, TRAINING, ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH (KSTAR) PROGRAM

IT IS AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL, **within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order**, successfully complete the Knowledge, Skills, Training, Assessment and Research (KSTAR) Program and RESPONDENT SHALL:

- A. **Within forty-five (45) days** following the effective date of this Order, apply to and enroll in the KSTAR Program, including payment of any fees and costs, unless otherwise agreed in writing;
- B. Submit to an individualized assessment designed to evaluate RESPONDENT'S nursing practice competency and to support a targeted remediation plan;
- C. Follow all requirements within the remediation plan, if any;
- D. Successfully complete a Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics as part of the KSTAR Program; and
- E. Provide written documentation of successful completion of the KSTAR Program to the attention of Monitoring at the Board's office.

IV. FURTHER COMPETENCY ISSUES AND VIOLATIONS

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT'S individualized KSTAR Program assessment identify further competency issues and violations of the Nursing Practice Act, including inability to practice nursing safely, further disciplinary action, up to and including revocation of RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, may be taken based on such results in the assessments.

V. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order for KSTAR Program, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S license(s) and/or privilege(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.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

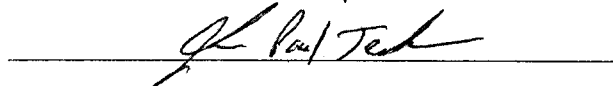
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, 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.

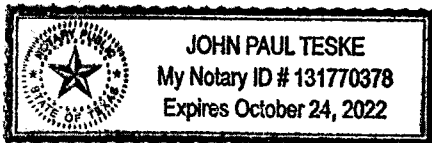
Signed this 19 day of February, 2020.


MEGAN ELIZABETH CRIPPEN, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of February, 2020.

SEAL





Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order for KSTAR Program that was signed on the 19th day of February, 2020, by MEGAN ELIZABETH CRIPPEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 330339, and said Agreed Order for KSTAR Program is final.

Effective this 10th day of March, 2020.



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