



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  
Registered Nurse License Number 881701  
issued to AMBER NICOLE MORGAN

§  
§  
§  
§

AGREED ORDER  
FOR  
DEFERRED DISCIPLINE

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of AMBER NICOLE MORGAN, Registered Nurse License Number 881701, 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 Deferred Discipline approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on May 7, 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 Deferred Discipline.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Diploma in Nursing from Covenant School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas, on May 29, 2015. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 25, 2015.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

6/2015 – 9/2018	Registered Nurse	University Medical Center Emergency Center Lubbock, Texas
9/2016 - Present	Registered Nurse	Lubbock Plastic Surgery Institute Lubbock, Texas
7/2018 – 2/2019	Registered Nurse	Rankin County Hospital District Rankin, Texas
3/2019 - Present	Registered Nurse	Grace Medical Center Lubbock, Texas

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Rankin County Hospital District, Rankin, Texas, and had been in that position for five (5) months.
7. On or about December 26, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department of Rankin County Hospital District, Rankin, Texas, Respondent failed to correctly obtain an electrocardiogram (EKG) for Patient Number 206847 and verify the patient identifiers on the printed results. The EKG machine was not programmed correctly with the patient's demographics, and a copy of another patient's EKG reading was printed instead, showing a S-T Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI). Subsequently, the provider ordered Aspirin, Nitroglycerin, and Lovenox to be administered to the patient prior to transporting the patient to another hospital, where he was correctly diagnosed with a Cerebrovascular Accident and intracranial hemorrhage. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to a risk of harm from clinical care decisions formulated based upon inaccurate assessment information, and a delay in diagnosis and correct treatment.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that there was another individual tasked with ensuring that the EKG was programmed correctly for this particular patient, who assured Respondent that the current patient demographics had been entered. Respondent states that the patient's demographics are not visible on the screen during an ongoing EKG, and the date, time, and demographics were incorrect once the EKG was printed out. Respondent states that once the strip was printed, she handed it to the physician assistant, whose responsibility it was to interpret the rhythm and order medications, and he also missed that the rhythm strip belonged to a different patient. Respondent states that once the mistake was caught, she informed the provider before the patient was transferred, but he opted to let them take the patient and notify the receiving hospital.
9. Formal Charges were filed on March 2, 2020.

10. Respondent has produced positive character letters and recent positive performance evaluations.
11. Respondent does not have prior disciplinary history with the Board.

#### 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)(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 881701, heretofore issued to AMBER NICOLE MORGAN.
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, DEFERRED**, 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 Deferred Discipline.

Further, RESPONDENT SHALL not commit any violation of 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.* **for a period of three (3) years from the date of 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 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.
- C. The course "Professional Accountability," a 4.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Learning Extension.
- D. A Board-approved course in cardiac dysrhythmia recognition that shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course's content shall include identification of the normal conduction system of the heart, including anatomy and physiology of the heart and components of the conduction system, normal configurations and implications of abnormal findings of the individual waves and segments of the PQRST, steps of the systematic analysis, identifying dysrhythmias arising from the sinus node, atria AV node and ventricles and their causes, nursing interventions, and documentation. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved.

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](http://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 four (4) quarterly periods [one (1) year] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until four (4) 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 of 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 four (4) quarters [one (1) year] of employment as a nurse.

**VI. EFFECT OF DEFERRED DISCIPLINE**

**Upon successful completion of the stipulated requirements of this Agreed Order for Deferred Discipline,** 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.

**Upon the successful completion of the required three (3) year period of deferral,** the complaint or complaints which formed the basis for this action will be dismissed and this Order will be made confidential to the same extent as a complaint filed under Section 301.466, Texas Occupations Code.

Until such time that this Order is made confidential, this Order is subject to disclosure in accordance with applicable law.

Should an additional allegation, complaint, accusation, or petition be reported or filed against RESPONDENT prior to the time this Order is made confidential, the deferral period shall be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been finally acted upon by the Board.

Should RESPONDENT commit a subsequent violation of the Nursing Practice Act or Board Rules, this Order shall be treated as prior disciplinary action.

**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 23 day of June, 2020.

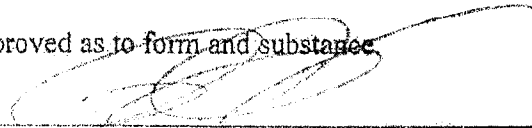
  
AMRE NICOLE MORGAN, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and substance

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phong Phan, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 24<sup>TH</sup> day of June, 2020.



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order for Deferred Discipline that was signed on the 23rd day of June, 2020, by AMBER NICOLE MORGAN, Registered Nurse License Number 881701, and said Agreed Order for Deferred Discipline is final.

Effective this 18th day of August, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine A. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style.

---

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