

## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Vocational Nurse License Number 120216	§	
issued to LISA LAVERNE ALLEN	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LISA LAVERNE ALLEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 120216, 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 September 21, 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.
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 Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, Texas, on December 18, 1987. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 26, 1988.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

05/1988-10/1988	Unknown	
11/1988-08/2016	LVN	CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

04/2016-06/2018	LVN	South Texas Substance Abuse Recovery Services Corpus Christi, Texas
09/2017-Present	LVN	CHRISTUS Spohn Memorial Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas

6. On or about November 2017 through June 2018, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with South Texas Substance Abuse Recovery Services (STSARS), Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent violated the boundaries of the nurse/client relationship with Patient I.G. in that Respondent allowed Patient I.G. to do maintenance work at her home. Further, Respondent admitted to her Clinical Director and the Chief Executive Officer at STSARS that she was in a relationship with Patient I.G. and refused to end the relationship. Respondent's conduct violated the professional boundaries of the nurse-client relationship and was likely to injure the patient in that it could have resulted in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the patient, which may not be recognized or felt by the patient until harmful consequences occur.
7. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (6), Respondent states she and Patient I.G. were friends prior to Patient I.G. becoming a patient at STSARS. Respondent states during a treatment session in November 2017 or December 2017, she asked Patient I.G. if he still did maintenance work. Respondent states the topic came up in conversation because she was experiencing problems with her water heater. Respondent states Patient I.G. said he didn't mind inspecting her water heater. Respondent states she deeply regrets accepting Patient I.G.'s assistance. Respondent states any violation of the nurse client relationship is limited to this incident. Respondent states when she met with her Clinical Director and the Chief Executive Officer she believed they were asking her to discontinue all of her friendships with individuals at STSARS. Respondent states she thought the request was broad and answered in the negative. Respondent states the statements have been mischaracterized.
8. Additionally, Respondent states she does not have any previous history with the Board. Respondent submitted several letters of recommendation from supervisors and colleagues demonstrating exemplary nursing performance during the course of her career. Additionally, Respondent states there are not findings that call into question Respondent's current ability to discharge her duties as a nurse.

### 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)(J) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(4)&(6)(D).
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 120216, heretofore issued to LISA LAVERNE ALLEN.
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 AND A FINE** 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" as applicable and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state using a Texas compact license.

#### **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.
- D. **The course "Professional Boundaries in Nursing,"** a 3.0 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](http://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance).*

**V. MONETARY FINE**

RESPONDENT SHALL **pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order.**

Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

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### 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 29 day of September 2020.

Lisa L. Allen  
LISA LAVERNE ALLEN, 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  
Phong Phan, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020, by LISA LAVERNE ALLEN, Vocational Nurse License Number 120216, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

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