



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
Registered Nurse License Number 745997 §
issued to STEPHANIE KAY PITTS §

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of STEPHANIE KAY PITTS, Registered Nurse License Number 745997, 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 October 11, 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.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Lamar State College-Port Arthur, Port Arthur, Texas, on July 5, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 14, 2007.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

08/2007-01/09	Unknown
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

02/09-01/10	RN	Swediah Medical Center Denver, Colorado
02/10-12/18	RN	Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas
01/19-Present	Unknown	

6. On or about September 2, 2014, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to follow physician's orders in that she failed to initiate a "STAT EKG" as ordered for Patient Medical Record Number 100481491. Respondent acknowledged the order on September 2, 2014, at 2310, but there is not an EKG record until September 3, 2014, at 0741. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to initiate orders could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
7. On or about April 22, 2017, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to initiate a wound care consult for Patient Medical Record Number 101771476, after a wound care nurse consult was entered and acknowledged. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to initiate orders could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
8. On or about February 23, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to administer Vitamin K as ordered, prior to an order KCentra dose for Patient Medical Record Number 120117428. Vitamin K is required prior to administration of KCentra to maintain Vitamin K-dependent clotting factor levels. Respondent documented administration of KCentra at 2257 on February 23, 2018, but then discharged the Vitamin K order at 0009 on February 24, 2018 for the reason of "order discontinued". Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to administer medications as ordered by the physician could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
9. On or about February 23, 2018, and February 24, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to document vital signs in a timely manner in the medical records of Patient Medical Record Number 120117428, in that 2100, 2200, and 2300 vital signs for February 23, 2018, and 0100 vital signs for February 24, 2018, were all documented between 0421 and 0428 on February 24, 2018. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have complete and accurate information on which to base their care decisions.

10. On or about June 1, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to document shift assessments, end of shift notes, or hourly input and output's in the nurses notes for Patient Medical Record Number 120671637. This patient was admitted after an emergency c-section and cardiac arrest to the ICU at 0400 with Respondent as the patient's primary nurse. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have complete and accurate information on which to base their care decisions.
11. On or about June 2, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to follow physician's orders in that Respondent failed to document ordered hourly input and output's for Patient Medical Record Number 120263022. Additionally, Respondent failed to document an end of shift assessment. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to initiate orders could have resulted in non-efficacious treatment.
12. On or about June 1, 2018, and June 2, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent failed to document vital signs in a timely manner in the medical records of Patient Medical Record Number 120263022, in that 2300, 0100, 0200, 0300, were all documented between 0428 and 0431 on June 2, 2018. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have complete and accurate information on which to base their care decisions.
13. On or about July 30, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas, Beaumont, Texas, Respondent had a seizure while on duty demonstrating an inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Subsequently, on or about October 30, 2018, Respondent was required by her employer, to complete an evaluation where the evaluator stated "based on limited medical documentation provided, the claimant is unable to perform her regular nursing duties...within reasonable medical probability, the claimant is not fit for duty as a Registered Nurse providing direct patient care given the nature, severity, and frequency of debilitating symptoms related to her diagnosis..." Respondent's condition could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in patient's conditions, and could have affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby, placing the patients in potential danger.

14. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Six (6) through Thirteen (13), Respondent states she does not remember any information on these patients and has no recollection of these allegations. Respondent states she has had a history of seizures for the last thirty (30) years. Respondent states her neurologist only suggested that less stress and not working nights might help, but did not tell her had had to do that. Respondent states Baptist Hospital took her out of her position on August 3, 2018, and on September 24, 2018, they stated a second opinion was needed as to whether Respondent could work as an RN or not; the second opinion was a rehabilitation doctor and not a neurologist. Respondent states her current treating physician is adjusting her medications to get the seizures completely under control so that she will be able to return to work.

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)(M)&(1)(T) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(E),(4),(5)&(6)(H).
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 745997, heretofore issued to STEPHANIE KAY PITTS.
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 **LIMITED LICENSE WITH STIPULATIONS** in accordance with the terms of this Order.

- A. While under the terms of this Order, **RESPONDENT SHALL NOT provide direct patient care.** For the purposes of this Order, direct patient care involves the formation of a relationship between the nurse and the client, and includes, but

is not limited to: teaching, counseling, assessing the client's needs and strengths, and providing skilled nursing care.

- B. This Order SHALL apply to any and all future licenses issued to RESPONDENT to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- C. This Order SHALL be applicable to RESPONDENT'S nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- D. 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. 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 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.

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.*

IV. RESTORATION OF PATIENT CARE PRIVILEGES AND/OR UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

SHOULD RESPONDENT desire to provide direct patient care, RESPONDENT SHALL petition the Board for such approval, at which time, the RESPONDENT MUST satisfy all then existing requirements for restoration of the privilege to provide direct patient care. Further, the Board may impose reasonable conditions that must be satisfied by the RESPONDENT before restoration of an unencumbered license, which, at a minimum, shall include the remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and/or employer reporting which would have been requirements of this Agreed Order had the license(s) not been placed in limited status.

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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 15 day of December, 2020

Stephanie Kay Pitts
STEPHANIE KAY PITTS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of December, 2020

SEAL

Notary Elizabeth Minton
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Courtney Newton
Courtney Newton, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 21st day of December, 2020



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 15th day of December, 2020, by STEPHANIE KAY PITTS, Registered Nurse License Number 745997, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of February, 2021.



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