

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Advanced Practice Registered	§	AGREED ORDER
Nurse License Number AP138153,	§	
Registered Nurse License Number 725235	§	
& Vocational Nurse License Number 199167	§	
issued to CELINA SERNA	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CELINA SERNA, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP138153, Registered Nurse License Number 725235, and Vocational Nurse License Number 199167, 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 August 6, 2021.

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 inactive status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, on December 15, 2004. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, on December 16, 2005. Respondent received a Master Degree in Nursing from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, Texas, on May 1, 2018. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on June 30, 2005. Respondent was

licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 21, 2006. Respondent was authorized to practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Prescription Authorization in the State of Texas on July, 19, 2018.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

06/2005 – 2009	Licensed Vocational Nurse Registered Nurse	Nacogdoches Medical Center Hospital Nacogdoches, Texas
05/2009 – 11/2009	Registered Nurse	Texas Spine and Joint Hospital San Antonio, Texas
05/2009 – 11/2009	Registered Nurse	Baptist Medical Center San Antonio, Texas
2009 – 2019	Registered Nurse	Nacogdoches Medical Center Hospital Nacogdoches, Texas
2013 - Present	Registered Nurse	Stephen F. Austin State University Nacogdoches, Texas
2016 – 2017	Registered Nurse	Panola College Carthage, Texas
2018 – Present	Family Nurse Practitioner	Strive Express Care Nacogdoches, Texas
2018 – Present	Family Nurse Practitioner	Texas Quick Care Nacogdoches, Texas
2018 – 04/2021	Family Nurse Practitioner	Nacogdoches Medical Center Hospital Nacogdoches, Texas
2018 – 04/2021	Family Nurse Practitioner	CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial Hospital Lufkin, Texas
2020 – Present	Family Nurse Practitioner	In and Out Urgent Care Lufkin, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Texas Quick Care, Nacogdoches, Texas, and had been in that position for two (2) years.

7. On or about September 18, 2020, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Texas Quick Care, Nacogdoches, Texas, Respondent spilled liquid nitrogen on the hand of Pediatric Patient AM during a wart removal procedure. Subsequently, the patient required wound care for the burns at the emergency room. Respondent's conduct resulted in redness, pain, swelling, and blistering to skin areas that were not being treated for warts.
8. On or about September 18, 2020, while employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Texas Quick Care, Nacogdoches, Texas, Respondent failed to completely assess and/or document findings and interventions for Pediatric Patient AM after Respondent spilled liquid nitrogen on the patient's hand during a wart removal procedure. Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record.
9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent explained other options for wart removal to the parent of Pediatric Patient AM and tried to convince the mother not to proceed with cryotherapy. Respondent states the patient's mother insisted that she proceed with freezing warts, so Respondent instructed Pediatric Patient AM to hold still. The incident occurred because the child jerked when the freezing began and the solution was accidentally applied to the patient's fingers. Respondent states she immediately placed the patient's hand under running water to clean the area of any residue and to alleviate pain. Respondent states there was a little redness to the patient's hand afterwards but there was no blistering when they left. Respondent offered a Bactrim ointment prescription but the mother declined and she and the child left without returning to the exam room or completing the visit.
10. Formal Charges were filed on May 3, 2021.

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)(D)&(1)(M) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B),(1)(C)&(4).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License Number AP138153, Registered Nurse License Number 725235, and Vocational Nurse License Number 199167, heretofore issued to CELINA SERNA.
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. Until successfully completed, RESPONDENT may not practice nursing in the State of Texas except in accordance with the terms of this Order.
- D. 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.

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.*

V. EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to complete the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT must work as an advanced practice registered 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 an advanced practice registered nurse have elapsed. Periods of unemployment or of employment that do not require the use of an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) 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. **Incident Reporting:** 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.
- 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. RESTORATION OF UNENCUMBERED LICENSE(S)

Upon full compliance with the terms of this Agreed Order, 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 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 6th day of August, 2021.
CELINA SERNA, 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.

Tarahynn R. Morg Kay
, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 6th day of August, 2021.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 6th day of August, 2021, by CELINA SERNA, Registered Nurse License Number 725235, and Vocational Nurse License Number 199167, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of September, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Katherine A. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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