In the Matter of
Permanent Registered Nurse
License Number 547872 &
Permanent Vocational Nurse
License Number 83359
Issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS
STEPHENS,
Respondent

§ BEFORE THE TEXAS
§ BOARD OF NURSING
§ ELIGIBILITY AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Peggy Stephens 87 Ledbetter Rd Mineral Wells, TX 76067

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on November 9, 2021, the Texas Board of Nursing Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter "Committee") heard the above-styled case, based on the failure of the Respondent to appear as required by 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with Texas Government Code § 2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301 of the Texas Occupations Code, for retention of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

The Committee finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with section 301.458, Texas Occupations Code.

The Committee finds that after proper and timely Notice regarding the violations alleged in the Formal Charges was given to Respondent in this matter, Respondent has failed to appear in accordance with 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE Ch. 213.

The Committee finds that the Board is authorized to enter a default order pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2001.056.

The Committee, after review and due consideration, adopts the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as stated in the Formal Charges which are attached hereto and incorporated by

reference for all purposes and the Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion for rehearing [22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16(j)]. All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order.

All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 547872, and Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 83359, previously issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS to practice nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is/are hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

Entered this 9th day of November, 2021

Ketherine Co. Thomas

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Attachment: Formal Charges filed August 16, 2021

d17r(2021.09.27)

Re: Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 547872 & Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 83359 Issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS DEFAULT ORDER - REVOKE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 9th day of Novembe	$\sqrt{}$, 2021 , a true and
correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served and addre	ssed to the following person(s),
as follows:	
Via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, Copy Via USPS First Class Mail	

Lettrenine Co. Thomas

BY:

Peggy Stephens 87 Ledbetter Rd

Mineral Wells, TX 76067

KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN, FAAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

In the Matter of Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 547872 & Permanent Vocational Nurse License Number 83359 Issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS.	* * * * * * *	BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
STEPHENS, Respondent		

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 547872 which is in delinquent status at the time of this pleading. Further, Respondent is a Vocational Nurse holding license number 83359 which is in inactive status at the time of this pleading.

Written notice of the facts and conduct alleged to warrant adverse licensure action was sent to Respondent at Respondent's address of record and Respondent was given opportunity to show compliance with all requirements of the law for retention of the license prior to commencement of this proceeding.

CHARGE I.

On or about March 5, 2020, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to Respondent on March 5, 2019, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Section IV, "REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)," Part A, of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

"...RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete...within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, ... a Board-approved course in Texas nursing Jurisprudence and ethics..."

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

CHARGE II.

On or about March 5, 2020, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to Respondent on March 5, 2019, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Section IV, "REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)," Part B, of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

"...RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete...within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, a Board approved course in nursing documentation.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

CHARGE III.

On or about March 5, 2020, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to Respondent on March 5, 2019, by the Texas Board of Nursing. Noncompliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Section IV, "REMEDIAL EDUCATION COURSE(S)," Part C, of the Agreed Order which states, in pertinent part:

"...RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete...within one (1) year of the effective date of this Order, ... the course 'Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills'..."

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of up to, and including, revocation of Respondent's license(s) and/or privilege(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 301, Texas Occupations Code and the Board's rules, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 213.27 - 213.33.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that all statutes and rules cited in these Charges are incorporated as part of this pleading and can be found at the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

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NOTICE IS GIVEN that, based on the Formal Charges, the Board will rely on the Disciplinary Matrix, located at 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.33(b), which can be found under the "Discipline & Complaints; Board Policies & Guidelines" section of the Board's website, www.bon.texas.gov.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order(s) which is/are attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Order(s) of the Board dated March 5, 2019.

Filed this 16th day of August, 2021

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Abel, Deputy General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization State Bar No. 24036103

Brian L. Miller, Jr., Assistant General Counsel

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JoAnna Starr, Assistant General Counse State Bar No. 24098463

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333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460 Austin, Texas 78701 P: (512) 305-8657

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Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated March 5, 2019.

D(2021.07.23)

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED ORDER Registered Nurse License Number 547872 \$ & Vocational Nurse License Number 83359 \$ issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS \$

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS, Registered Nurse License Number 547872, and Vocational Nurse License Number 83359, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

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 November 30, 2018.

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 Mineral Wells School of Vocational Nursing, Mineral Wells, Texas, on August 28, 1979. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Texas, on May 1, 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 16, 1979. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 1, 1988.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

10/1979 - 1988	LVN/RN	Palo Pinto General Hospital Mineral Wells, Texas
1988 – 1998	Patient Care Coordinator	John Peter Smith Hospital Fort Worth, Texas
1998 – 2006	RN	Campbell Hospital Weatherford, Texas
2006 – 2009	Case Manager	American Hospice Jacksboro, Texas
2000 – 2015	Hospice Case Manager	Palo Pinto General Hospital Mineral Wells, Texas
2015 – 2/2018	Registered Nurse	Professional Hospice Euless, Texas
3/2018 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Professional Hospice, Euless, Texas, and had been in that position for approximately three (3) years.
- 7. On or about December 11, 2017, through February 20, 2018, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Professional Hospice, Euless, Texas, Respondent failed to submit skilled nursing notes and aide supervisory visit notes in a timely manner. Respondent's conduct deprived subsequent caregivers of accurate information for which may be used to base their decisions for further care.
- 8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states documentation was not completed in a timely manner due to unforeseen circumstances with her elderly parents and her own health.

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)(D) 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 547872, and Vocational Nurse License Number 83359, heretofore issued to PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS.
- 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.

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. <u>A Board-approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics</u> 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. <u>The course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills,"</u> 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 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. SUBSEQUENT CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, should the RESPONDENT'S conduct, as outlined in the findings of fact of this Agreed Order, result in subsequent judicial action, including a deferred disposition, RESPONDENT may be subject to further disciplinary action, up to, and including, revocation of RESPONDENT'S license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

VII. 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) 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 t	his 24	day of _	Janua	un, 20 19	
Den	Nu s	a K	ing S	Hers	
PEGOY	TERESA	LUCAS	S STEPHI	ENS, Respo	 nden

Sworn to and subscribed before me this $\frac{24}{4}$

My Notary ID # 129552580 Expires September 9, 2021

Notary-Public in and for the State of _ \(\frac{1 - \chi \chi \chi}{2} \)

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 24th day of January, 2019, by PEGGY TERESA LUCAS STEPHENS, Registered Nurse License Number 547872, and Vocational Nurse License Number 83359, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 5th day of March, 2019.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board