

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the Matter of Permanent Certificate

Number 554305 issued to

§

AGREED ORDER

KATHRINE IRENE EGGERS

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An investigation by the Board produced evidence indicating that KATHRINE

IRENE EGGERS, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may have violated Article

4525(b)(8),(9)&(12), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended.

An informal conference was held on August 27, 1996, at the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners, in accordance with Article 4524C, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. In attendance were Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; Kenneth W. Lowrance, MS, RN, CS, FNP-C, Board Member; Sharon L. Sanders, Assistant Attorney General; Anthony L. Diggs, Supervising Investigator; Darlene Argo, RN, Investigator; and Carol Vetter, RN, Investigator.

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.
- 2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this order.
- 3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in Texas.
- 4. Respondent received a diploma from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Lubbock, Texas, in June 1989. She was licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) in Texas on August 25, 1989.

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5. Respondent's professional employment history includes:

November 30, 1988 - May 3, 1995

Methodist Hospital Lubbock, Texas

-Nurse Tech/Staff Nurse/Charge Nurse

February 1995 - March 1996

Horizon Specialty Hospital

Lubbock, Texas

-Staff RN

April 17, 1996 - May 7, 1996

Highland Medical Center

Lubbock, Texas

-Staff RN

Present

KMI International (pharmaceutical sales)

-salesperson

- 6. At the time of the incidents described in Findings of Fact 7 through 9, Respondent was employed as a Staff RN at Methodist Hospital, Lubbock, Texas. She had been employed with this facility for approximately four (4) years and nine (9) months. At the time of the incidents described in Findings of Fact 10 through 12, Respondent was employed as a Staff RN at Highland Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas. She had been employed with this facility for approximately two (2) weeks.
- 7. Between April 1, 1995 and April 16, 1995, while employed with Methodist Hospital, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent failed to accurately document the administration of medications in medical records. Her failure to accurately document is illustrated by the incidents listed in Table -1- (Attached). Respondent's failure to accurately document the administration of medications unnecessarily exposed patients to inadequate nursing and medical interventions based on inaccurate information in the medical records and demonstrated incomplete accounts of the patients' conditions and treatments.
- 8. Between April 1, 1995 and April 15, 1995, while employed with the aforementioned facility, Respondent administered medications, specifically narcotics, without physicians' orders. Her failure to responsibly administer medications is illustrated by the incidents listed in Table -2- (Attached). Respondent's failure to responsibly administer medications, specifically narcotics, unnecessarily exposed patients to adverse reactions of narcotics, including sedation, hypotension, nausea, vomiting, urine retention and respiratory depression.

- 9. On or about April 15, 1995, while employed with the aforementioned facility, Respondent was witnessed using a syringe to withdraw fluid from the Morphine intravenous (IV) drip bottle of a patient on at least two (2) occasions. She was witnessed leaving the room with a syringe of solution on each occasion. Respondent's misappropriation of a narcotic was likely to deceive the hospital regarding the use of the narcotic. Her conduct also unnecessarily omitted the patient's opportunity to receive the full dose of analgesia.
- 10. On or about May 5, 1996, while employed with Highland Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent reported to duty with the odor of alcohol on her breath. Her appearance was noted to be unkempt in that the buttons on her uniform were not buttoned and her hair was unkempt. In addition, she was noted to have slurred speech and to be "wandering off frequently."
- 11. On or about May 5, 1996, while employed with the aforementioned facility, Respondent submitted a blood specimen for a Blood Alcohol level. The test results were positive for Alcohol at a level of 304 mg/dl. The use of alcohol by a registered nurse, while subject to duty or call, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in a patient's condition and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate and appropriate assessments, judgments and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing patients in potential danger.
- 12. On August 27, 1996, Respondent submitted a signed, notarized statement to the Board, voluntarily surrendering the right to practice professional nursing in Texas. As Respondent did not have, in her possession, her professional nurse license, she also submitted a signed, notarized statement to so state. Respondent was informed that the Final Agreed Order will contain the Board's Findings of Fact. Respondent was also informed that, upon petitioning for reinstatement, she shall satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to Article 4525, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
- 2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
- 3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Article 4525(b)(8),(9)&(12), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(6)&(7); and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.13(15).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Article 4525(b), TEX. REV. CIV. STAT. ANN., to take disciplinary action against license number 554305, heretofore issued to KATHRINE IRENE EGGERS.

- 5. Under Article 4525.1(c), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Article 4525.1(d), Revised Civil Statutes of Texas, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.

AGREED SANCTIONS

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED, that the voluntary surrender of license number 554305, heretofore issued to KATHRINE IRENE EGGERS to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, is accepted by the Board of Nurse Examiners. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL immediately deliver the wallet-size license, heretofore issued to KATHRINE IRENE EGGERS, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying her as a registered nurse or use any designation which, directly or indirectly, would lead any person to believe that RESPONDENT is a registered nurse during the period in which the license is surrendered.
- 3. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement until 5 years has elapsed from the date of this Order.
- 4. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby accept the voluntary surrender of nursing license #554305, previously issued to KATHRINE IRENE EGGERS.

Effective this __27th ___ day of _August ______, 19_96___.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board

Kathrine Irene Eggers 5711 75th St. Lubbock, Texas 79424 Texas RN License #554305

August 27, 1996

Dear Board of Nurse Examiners:

I no longer desire to be licensed as a professional nurse. Accordingly, I voluntarily surrender my license to practice in Texas. I waive representation by counsel and consent to the entry of an Order which outlines requirements for reinstatement of my license. I understand that I will be required to comply with the Board's Rules and Regulations in effect at the time I submit any petition for reinstatement.

Texas RN License Number <u>554</u> 30

The State of Texas

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this date personally appeared Kathrine Irene Eggers who, being duly sworn by me, stated that she executed the above for the purpose therein contained and that she understood same.

LINDA R. GOMEZ NOTARY PUB State of Texas

SEAL

Sworn to before me the 27th day of August, 1996.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas