

**In the Matter of** § **BEFORE THE TEXAS**  
**Permanent Registered Nurse** §  
**License Number 510041** § **BOARD OF NURSING**  
**Issued to DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS,** §  
**Respondent** § **ELIGIBILITY AND**  
  
**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO: Deborah Carrithers  
7611 El Pensador Dr  
Dallas, TX 75248

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on August 8, 2023, 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 510041, previously issued to DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

BY:   
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Attachment: Formal Charges filed June 13, 2023

d17r(2023.07.18)

Re: Permanent Registered Nurse License Number 510041  
Issued to DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS  
DEFAULT ORDER - REVOKE


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served and addressed to the following person(s), as follows:

Via USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested,

Copy Via USPS First Class Mail

Deborah Carrithers  
7611 El Pensador Dr  
Dallas, TX 75248

BY: 

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

**In the Matter of  
Permanent Registered Nurse  
License Number 510041  
Issued to DEBORAH RACHEL  
CARRITHERS,  
Respondent**

§  
§ **BEFORE THE TEXAS**  
§  
§  
§ **BOARD OF NURSING**

### **FORMAL CHARGES**

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 510041, which is in delinquent 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 9, 2021, Respondent failed to successfully complete the Board's online course, "Understanding Board Orders," as required by the Agreed Order issued February 9, 2021.

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 February 9, 2022, Respondent failed to successfully complete the Board approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics as required by the Agreed Order issued February 9, 2021.

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 February 9, 2022, Respondent failed to successfully complete the Board approved course in Documentation as required by the Agreed Order issued on February 9, 2021.

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 IV.**

On or about February 9, 2022, Respondent failed to successfully complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills" as required by the Agreed Order issued February 9, 2021.

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](http://www.bon.texas.gov).

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](http://www.bon.texas.gov).


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**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.**

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 February 9, 2021.

Filed this 13th day of June, 2023.

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

JoAnna Starr, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24098463

Jacqueline A. Strashun, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 19358600

John Vanderford, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24086670

1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P: (512) 305-8657  
F: (512) 305-8101 or (512) 305-7401

Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated February 9, 2021.

D(2023.06.05)

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

\*\*\*\*\*

In the Matter of § AGREED ORDER  
Registered Nurse License Number 510041 §  
issued to DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS §  
§

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS, Registered Nurse License Number 510041, 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 16, 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 professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from El Centro College, Dallas, Texas, on May 15, 1983. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 30, 1983.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

8/1983 – 4/1985	Registered Nurse	Baylor University Medical Center Dallas, Texas
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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

4/1985 – 8/1987	Registered Nurse	Dallas Family Hospital Dallas, Texas
8/1987 – 6/1989	Registered Nurse	General Hospital of Lakewood Dallas, Texas
6/1989 – 11/1995	Registered Nurse	Garland Community Hospital Garland, Texas
11/1995 – 8/1996	Registered Nurse	Premiere Surgery Center Garland, Texas
8/1996 – 6/1997	Registered Nurse	St. Paul Medical Center Dallas, Texas
7/1997 – 1/1999	Registered Nurse	Premiere Surgery Center Dallas, Texas
1/1999 – 6/2003	Registered Nurse	Park Surgery Center Dallas, Texas
6/2003 – 3/2006	Registered Nurse	Health South Surgery Center Dallas, Texas
3/2006 – 6/2013	Registered Nurse	North Central Surgery Center Dallas, Texas
6/2013 – 3/2018	Unknown	
3/2018 – 12/2019	Registered Nurse	Epic Health Services Dallas, Texas
1/2020- Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Epic Health Services, Dallas, Texas, and had been in that position for one (1) year and nine (9) months.
7. On or about December 2, 2019, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Epic Health Services, Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately intervene, after Patient BB suffered a fall from a high chair after Respondent had left him unattended and unsecured. The patient immediately sustained a visible head injury from the fall. Additionally,

Respondent failed to assess and/or document her nursing interventions and the patient's response to said nursing interventions in the medical record; including: the patient's status, contacts with other members of the care team and any physician's orders to escalate care. Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record and was likely to injure the patient from delay of emergency medical care.

8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states the fall occurred after Respondent turned her back to empty some milk, while she and the patient were in the kitchen together. Respondent further states she spoke with both parents within fifteen (15) minutes of the patient's fall.

#### 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),(1)(M)&(1)(P) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(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 Registered Nurse License Number 510041, heretofore issued to DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS.
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" 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](http://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. 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 4 day of JAN., 2021.  
Deborah Rachel Carrithers RN  
DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS, 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.

Deborah Goodall  
Deborah Goodall, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 4th day of January, 2021.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021, by DEBORAH RACHEL CARRITHERS, Registered Nurse License Number 510041, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.



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