

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of \$ AGREED ORDER Vocational Nurse License Number 1069907 \$ issued to NEREYDA AGUILAR \$

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of NEREYDA AGUILAR, Vocational Nurse License Number 1069907, 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)&(14)(effective 9/1/2021), 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 May 5, 2023.

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 current status.
- 4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Vista College, El Paso, Texas, on December 10, 2021. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on February 27, 2022.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

2/2022 - 3/2022 Unknown

4/2022 – 12/2022 LVN RollingBrook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Baytown, Texas

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Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

12/2022 - Present

LVN

Mont Belvieu Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center, Mont Belvieu, Texas

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with RollingBrook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Baytown, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
- 7. On or about December 20, 2022, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Rolling Brook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Baytown, Texas, Respondent assessed Resident FR after a certified nurse aide reported that the resident was having difficulty breathing, but failed to document her assessment in the resident's medical record. Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record and was likely to injure the resident in that subsequent care givers would not have complete information to base their future care decisions.
- 8. On or about December 20, 2022, while employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with RollingBrook Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Baytown, Texas, Respondent failed to verify the code status of Resident FR, after the resident became unresponsive, by confirming that the resident had a signed DNR form in place. Additionally, when a DNR form could not be located, Respondent failed to initiate CPR for Resident FR and Respondent called EMS only after the hospice nurse instructed her to do so. Further, Respondent attempted to get a DNR form signed by the resident's responsible party after the resident passed away. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily delayed the onset of emergency interventions for the resident and may have contributed to the resident's demise.
- 9. In response to Findings of Fact Number Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states after she received report, a CNA for 100 Hall reported that Resident FR was having a little trouble breathing. Respondent states she and the night nurse assessed the resident's vitals and the resident stated she was okay and denied any pain or discomfort. Respondent states they repositioned the resident and told the CNA to round on the resident and report any changes. Regarding the resident's code status. Respondent states the resident was a hospice patient since August 2022 and had been listed as a DNR in the electronic medical record and in the DNR logbook since that time. Respondent states at the end of her shift, the resident became unresponsive, so she notified the on-call hospice nurse. Respondent states the hospice nurse called back approximately 10 mins later and informed her she was enroute to the facility. Respondent states approximately 30-45 minutes later, the hospice nurse called back stating that she did not have a copy of the DNR. Respondent states she checked the electronic health record but could not find the form. Respondent states she checked the binder on the crash cart and on the front page is a log that has the names of residents with DNRs on file. Respondent states the resident's name was on the log and had the date of August 2022. Respondent states she looked for the DNR form in the binder but could not find it. Respondent states by this time, the patient's responsible party was at the

bedside. Respondent further states that while waiting for EMS to arrive, the DON instructed Respondent via text to ask the patient's daughter if she would sign a DNR.

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)&(2) 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)&(14) (effective 9/1/2021), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 1069907, heretofore issued to NEREYDA AGUILAR.
- 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. <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 "Righting a Wrong,"</u> a 3.0 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).
- D. The course "Upholding the Standard: Professional Accountability in Nursing," a 5.5 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) International Center for Regulatory Scholarship (ICRS).

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 <u>not</u> 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, <u>for a minimum of sixty-four (64) hours per month</u> for eight (8) quarterly periods [two (2) years] of employment. This requirement will not be satisfied until eight (8) 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 <u>and will not count towards completion of this</u> 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. **Direct Supervision:** For the first year [four (4) quarters] of employment as a Nurse under this order, RESPONDENT SHALL be directly 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. Direct supervision requires another nurse, as applicable, to be working on the same unit as RESPONDENT and immediately available to provide assistance and intervention. RESPONDENT SHALL work only on 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. Indirect Supervision: For the remainder of the stipulation/probation period, 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.

E. 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 eight (8) quarters [two (2) years] 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

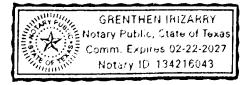
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit for deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, Lagree to the why of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, to 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 it fail to comply with all terms and conditions of this Order, I will be subject to investigate to a disciplinary sanction, including possible revocation of my license(s) and/or privilege in nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance

Signed this <u>28</u> day of <u>Sept</u>, 20 23

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of

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WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>28th</u> day of <u>September</u>, 20<u>23</u>, by NEREYDA AGUILAR, Vocational Nurse License Number 1069907, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 14th day of November, 2023.

Kristin K. Berton, DNP, RN

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN Executive Director on behalf of said Board