

## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of LORRAINE C COOPER, Registered Nurse License Number 657051 I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate and true copy the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.

Kuitin K. Benton, DNP, RN

Executive Director

### ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LORRAINE C COOPER, Registered Nurse License Number 657051, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

This action was taken in accordance with Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order.

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

#### <u>FINDINGS</u> OF FACT

- 1. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status.
- 2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
- 3. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from New Mexico, MISSING, New Mexico, on May 1, 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 15, 1999.
- 4. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1/1999 - 10/2016

Unknown

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/2016 - 2/2019

RN

El Paso State Supported Living

Center

El Paso, Texas

2/2019 – 12/2019

RN

Los Arcos Del Norte Care

Center

El Paso, Texas

12/2019 - Present

Unknown

- 5. On or about May 10, 2022, Respondent was issued the sanction of Warning with Stipulations and Fine through an Order of the Board. A copy of the May 10, 2022, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 6. On or about November 15, 2023, the Board provided notice to Respondent that an investigation was being initiated into alleged violations of the Nursing Practice Act and/or the Board's Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure, and Practice, as follows:
  - On or about May 10, 2023, you failed to successfully complete a Board approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics as required by the Order issued on May 10, 2022.
  - On or about May 10, 2023, you failed to successfully complete the course Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills as required by the Order issued on May 10, 2022.
- 7. On December 4, 2023, the Board received a notarized statement from Respondent voluntarily surrendering the right to practice nursing in Texas in lieu of completing the Order. A copy of Respondent's statement, dated November 29, 2023, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.

## **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 §217.12(11)(B).

- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(1)&(10), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 657051, heretofore issued to LORRAINE C COOPER, including revocation of Respondent's license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
- 5. Under Section 301.453(c), Texas Occupations Code, the Board has the authority to accept the voluntary surrender of a license.
- 6. Under Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, as amended, the Board may impose conditions for reinstatement of licensure.
- 7. Any subsequent reinstatement of this license will be controlled by Section 301.453(d), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §213.26-.29, and any amendments thereof in effect at the time of the reinstatement.

#### TERMS OF ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER of Registered Nurse License Number 657051 is accepted by the Texas Board of Nursing. In connection with this acceptance, the Board imposes the following conditions:

- 1. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT practice professional/registered nursing, use the title "registered nurse" or the abbreviation "RN" or wear any insignia identifying herself/himself 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.
- 2. RESPONDENT SHALL NOT petition for reinstatement of licensure until at least one (1) year has elapsed from the date of this Order.
- 3. Upon petitioning for reinstatement, RESPONDENT SHALL satisfy all then existing requirements for relicensure.

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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.

Effective this 4th day of December, 2023

Kristin K. Berton, DNP, RN

Kristin K. Benton, DNP, RN Executive Director on behalf of said Board Dear, Tamika Rose and related parties,

I am writing in response to my case regarding the Nursing Practice Act and the Board's rules and regulations concerning the allegations made in the complaint against me. Despite my efforts to address the matter and complete online courses, I have not been employed in nursing or any other medical-related field from the start of this claim up to the present time. After careful consideration, I have decided to voluntarily surrender my nursing license and settle this matter without further proceedings. My intention is to seek employment outside of nursing and any medical-related fields. I no longer have a desire to work in the nursing profession or any healthcare-related capacity. Based on our conversation on the phone, I am writing this letter which will be notarized as instructed. By surrendering my license I avoid any further actions. I sincerely appreciate your cooperation in helping to bring this situation to a resolution.

Sincerely,

Lorraine C Cooper (915)-313-1637

10893 Loma Corta place El Paso TX 79934

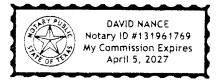
State of TEXAS

County of EL 1450

brainel Cooper

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 29 day of Nov , 2013

To any Publick Signature
(a Commission Stocker
(b) Commission Stocker
(c) J-2017



# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 657051 issued to LORRAINE C COOPER

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AGREED ORDER

xecutive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LORRAINE C COOPER, Registered Nurse License Number 657051, 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)(effective through 8/31/21), 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 January 4, 2022.

## **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 New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, on May 1, 1988. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on January 15, 1999.
- 5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

1/1999 - 10/2016

Unknown

657051.196

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/2016 - 2/2019

Registered Nurse

El Paso State Supported Living Center

El Paso, Texas

2/2019 - 12/2019

Registered Nurse

Los Arcos Del Norte Care Center

El Paso, Texas

12/2019 - Present

Unknown

- 6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Los Arcos Del Norte Care Center, El Paso, Texas, and had been in that position for ten (10) months.
- 7. On or about December 12,2019, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Los Arcos Del Norte Care Center, El Paso, Texas, Respondent failed to check the function and placement of wander guards for two (2) residents as ordered by a physician. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the residents in that failure to monitor their safety as ordered by a physician could have resulted in undue harm to them and others.
- 8. On or about December 12,2019, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Los Arcos Del Norte Care Center, El Paso, Texas, Respondent falsified the medication administration record (MAR) for two (2) residents to show she checked the function and placement of wander guard when she didn't. Furthermore, Respondent admitted she didn't even know one of the residents had a wander guard and that she just checked it off automatically. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record and unnecessarily exposed her patients to a risk of harm. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation.
- 9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Eight (8), Respondent states she had 4 residents with wander guards in her hall. Respondent states when she was asked about Miss Carrillo's wader guard, she drew a blank and couldn't remember. Respondent states she checked the orders and she had it ordered. Respondent states when she was asked about Miss Zaragoza's wander guard, she stated "What is the matter with it?". Respondent states she knew she had it because she was the one who initiated placement weeks ago. Respondent states she didn't think anything was wrong with it. Respondent states even though she knew their whereabouts and looked after her resident's safety. Respondent states none were physically in danger during her shift. Respondent states after reflection, she understands her mistake, she checked the functions by waving the box before she completed her shift, but she clicked on the MAR at the beginning. Respondent states she should have clicked the completion of the task at the actual time. Respondent states she regrets her poor judgement. Respondent states she had already physically checked two of the four wonder guards of her residents, she checked off the MAR of the other two early

because she was in processes of doing so. Respondent states she takes full responsibility for her actions and deeply apologize for clicking the MAR too early.

### **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) and 22 Tex. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(6)(A)&(6)(H).
- 4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13)(effective through 8/31/21), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 657051, heretofore issued to LORRAINE C COOPER.
- 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 AND FINE** 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: <a href="http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp">http://www.bon.texas.gov/UnderstandingBoardOrders/index.asp</a>. 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. 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 <a href="https://www.bon.texas.gov/compliance">www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</a>.

## V. MONETARY FINE

RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

# VI. 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.

# VII. 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.

### VIII. 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 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 28 day of MMM, 2021.

LORRAINE C COOPER, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  $\chi$ 

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SEAL

ROSE R ORTEGA
NOTARY PUBLIC
ID# 7843569
In and for the State of Texas
My commission expires

Notary Public in and for the State of

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the <u>28<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>March</u>, <u>2022</u>, by LORRAINE C COOPER, Registered Nurse License Number 657051, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 10th day of May, 2022.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

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Executive Director on behalf

of said Board