

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER, Registered Nurse License Number 861320, 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.

FINDINGS 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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 23, 1976. Respondent received a Master's Degree in Advanced Practice Nursing/Adult Nurse Practitioner from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland in May, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Wisconsin on September 17, 1996, which expired on February 28, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Maryland on October 24, 1994, which expired on March 28, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 21, 2014.
- 4. Respondent's nursing employment history is unknown.

- 5. On or about January 21, 2021, Respondent was issued the sanction of Reprimand with Stipulations and Fine through an Order of the Board. A copy of the January 21, 2021, Order is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 6. Formal Charges were filed on September 12, 2023. A copy of the Formal Charges, dated September 12, 2023, is attached and incorporated herein by reference as part of this Order.
- 7. On June 28, 2024, the Board received a 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 June 27, 2024, 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 861320, heretofore issued to CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER, 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 861320 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.

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 28th day of June, 2024

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

CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER RN LICENSE NUMBER 861320 Voluntary Surrender Statement

Dear Texas Board of Nursing:

I, Christine Donna Miller, no longer desire to be licensed as a nurse. Accordingly, I declare under penalty of perjury that I voluntarily surrender my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas. Further, I consent to the entry of an Order with findings reflecting the alleged conduct and which outlines requirements for reinstatement of my license. I understand that I can be represented by an attorney in this matter. I waive attorney representation, notice, administrative hearing, and judicial review of the Order entered by the Board. I understand that I may not petition for reinstatement until one (1) year from the effective date of the Order. 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.

EXECUTED IN BEXAR County, State of Texas on 27 June 2024.

Signature: Chustine Donna Miller

RN LICENSE NUMBER 861320

In the Matter of \$\ \text{Permanent Registered Nurse}\$

License Number 861320 \$\ \text{Issued to CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER,} Respondent \$\text{SOURD BOARD OF NURSING}\$

FORMAL CHARGES

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER, is a Registered Nurse holding license number 861320, 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 January 21, 2022, Respondent failed to successfully complete a Board approved course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics as required by the Agreed Order issued January 21, 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 January 21, 2022, Respondent failed to successfully complete a Board approved course in nursing documentation as required by the Agreed Order issued on January 21, 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, <u>www.bon.texas.gov</u>.

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 January 21, 2021.

Filed this 12th day of September, 2023

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

James W. Johnston, General Counsel

Board Certified - Administrative Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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State Bar No. 24086670

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Attachment(s): Order(s) of the Board dated January 21, 2021.

D(2023.07.26)

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of	§	AGREED ORDER
Registered Nurse License Number 861320	§	
issued to CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER	§	
	§	

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER, Registered Nurse License Number 861320, 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 September 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 delinquent status.
- 4. Respondent received a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 23, 1976. Respondent received a Master's Degree in Advanced Practice Nursing/Adult Nurse Practitioner from Johns Hopkins University. Baltimore, Maryland in May, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Wisconsin on September 17, 1996, which expired on February 28, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Maryland on October 24, 1994, which expired on March 28, 2016. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 21, 2014.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

9/1976 – 6/1978	Staff Nurse	Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center Milwaukee, Wisconsin
6/1978 - 6/1980	Staff Nurse	City of Milwaukee Public Health Department Milwaukee, Wisconsin
6/1980 – 1/1990	Nursing Supervisor	Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1/1990 6/1990	Clinical Staff Nurse	Murphy VA Medical Center San Antonio, Texas
6/1990 – 9/2011	Registered Nurse/Adult Nurse Practitioner	United States Army
9/2011 – 12/2014	Nursing Supervisor	Fort Sam Houston Fort Sam Houston, Texas
1/2015 - 8/2015	Home Health Nurse	Meridia Home Health Austin, Texas
9/2015 - 9/2018	Clinical Charge Nurse	Travis County Sheriff's Department Del Valle, Texas
10/2018 - 2/2019	Unknown	
3/2019 – 11/2019	Registered Nurse	Laurel Ridge Treatment Center San Antonio, Texas
12/2019 - Present	Unknown	

- 6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio, Texas, and had been in that position for eight (8) months.
- 7. On or about November 8, 2019, while employed as a Registered Nurse at Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, San Antonio, Texas, Respondent failed to assess Patient MR #240041 after the patient had been involved in an altercation with a peer where he had been pushed into a metal bench and fallen to the ground. Respondent failed to notify the patient's physician. In addition, Respondent falsely documented that she completed an assessment on the aforementioned patient on November 8, 2019, at 22:46, including documentation with respect to the patient's pain, gait, leg length and rotation, and palpated pulse.

Subsequently, on or about November 9, 2019, Patient MR #240041 was found to have sustained a fractured femur and was transferred to the hospital. Respondent's conduct resulted in a delay in care and was likely to injure the patient due to the pain and risk of complications from an untreated femur fracture. Additionally, Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent caregivers would not have accurate information on which to base their decisions for further care.

- 8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she evaluated the patient on Saturday, November 9, 2019, after the physician called her about the incident. Respondent states that she only peeked into the room where the patient was on Friday, November 8, 2019. Respondent states that she did inform the oncoming shift's nurse to send the patient to the Emergency Department if the patient continued to complain of hip pain.
- 9. Formal Charges were filed on August 4, 2020.

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)&(3)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE \$217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4)&(6)(A).
- 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 861320, heretofore issued to CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER.
- 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 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. 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 <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 <u>www.bon.texas.gov/compliance</u>.

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 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 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. **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.

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) 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 30 th day of November 20 30.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30 day of November 20 20.

SEAL

MARGARET GARCIA

Notary Public, State of Texas

Comm. Expires 09-25-2021

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 30th day of November, 2020, by CHRISTINE DONNA MILLER, Registered Nurse License Number 861320, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 21st day of January, 2021.

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN

Ketherine Co Thomas

Executive Director on behalf

of said Board