



I do hereby certify this to be a complete, accurate, and true copy of the document which is on file or is of record in the offices of the Texas Board of Nursing.

*Katherine A. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

# BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of  
Registered Nurse License Number 831886  
issued to FREDERICK JOSEPH NIEMIEC

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## AGREED ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of FREDERICK JOSEPH NIEMIEC, Registered Nurse License Number 831886, 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 8, 2018.

### 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 Austin Community College, Austin, Texas, on December 12, 2012. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on February 12, 2013.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

02/13 – 10/16

RN

Seton Northwest Hospital  
Austin, Texas

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

10/16 – 05/17	RN	University Medical Center Brackenridge Austin, Texas
05/17 – 09/17	RN	Dell Seton Medical Center Austin, Texas
10/17 – Present	RN	Cornerstone Hospital Austin, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse (RN) with University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, Texas, and had been in that position for four (4) months.
7. On or about February 9, 2017, while employed with University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, Texas, Respondent removed a Tegaderm from the donor site of plastic surgery Patient Number 3163384, without a physician's order. Additionally, Respondent falsely documented that he obtained a physician's order in his nurse's notes. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily compromised the sterile field and exposed the patient to a risk of infection. Additionally, Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record.
8. On or about March 16, 2017, while employed with University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, Texas, Respondent falsely documented that he performed an arterial line dressing and tubing change for Patient Number 3417225 in that the Charge Nurse actually performed the dressing and tubing change. Respondent's conduct created an inaccurate medical record.
9. On or about September 2, 2017, while employed with Dell Seton Medical Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent failed to document frequent vital signs for Patient Number 4007126. Respondent's conduct created an incomplete medical record and was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would not have complete information to base their decisions for further care.

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10. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), regarding the Tegaderm, Respondent admits he removed the Tegaderm and replaced it with another one after the day nurse told him he needed to do a dressing change that evening. Respondent states he has since learned from his manager that he is not to change the dressings on plastic surgery patients without a physician's order. Regarding the arterial line change, Respondent states he was having trouble disconnecting the tubing from the catheter that was inserted into the radial artery and he was afraid he would dislodge it and/or pull it out. Respondent states he immediately stopped what he was doing and asked a fellow nurse for his assistance. Respondent states the other nurse was able to disconnect and reconnect the new tubing with the vamp to the catheter. Respondent states he had intended to take over at that point and add the new dressing, but states the other nurse proceeded to perform the dressing change for him. Regarding the vital signs, Respondent admits he forgot to document frequent vital signs but states he had the vital signs monitor taking frequent vital signs throughout the procedure.

### 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),(B),(C),(D)&(O) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(4),(6)(A)&(6)(H).
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 831886, heretofore issued to FREDERICK JOSEPH NIEMIEC.
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. As a result of this Order, RESPONDENT'S license(s) will be designated "single state" and RESPONDENT may not work outside the State of Texas in another nurse licensure compact party state.

## **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. **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. 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) 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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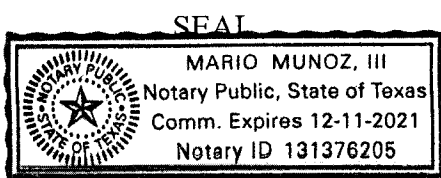
**RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION**

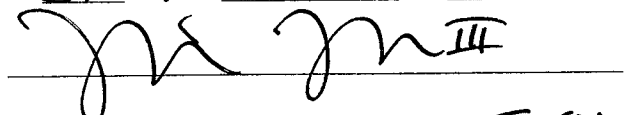
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said Order, 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of OCTOBER, 20 18.

  
FREDERICK JOSEPH NIEMIEC, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31 day of October, 20 18.

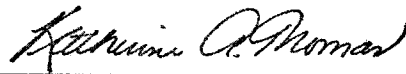


  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2018, by FREDERICK JOSEPH NIEMIEC, Registered Nurse License Number 831886, and said Agreed Order is final.

Effective this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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