

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           §        AGREED  
License Number 688781 and                   §  
Vocational Nurse                               §  
License Number 164597                       §  
issued to PATIENCE UKO UCHE             §        ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PATIENCE UKO UCHE, Registered Nurse License Number 688781 and Vocational Nurse License Number 164597, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on February 15, 2011, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

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 licenses.
2. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas. Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is currently in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from El Centro College, Dallas Texas, on August 7, 1997, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Navarro College, Corsicana, Texas, on May 11, 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 25, 1997, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 23, 2002.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

09/1997 - 04/2002	LVN Charge Nurse	Brentwood Place 1 Dallas, Texas
05/2002 - 04/2003	RN Charge Nurse	Brentwood Place 1 Dallas, Texas
06/2002 - Unknown	RN Charge Nurse	Methodist Medical Hospital of Dallas Dallas, Texas
Unknown	Staff RN	RHD Memorial Hospital Dallas, Texas
10/2003 - 03/2005	Case Manager	A-Unified Home Health Agency, Inc. Mesquite, Texas
04/2005 - 07/2005	Unknown	
08/2005 - 05/2008	Staff RN	Richardson Regional Medical Center Richardson, Texas
04/2007 - Unknown	Owner / DON	United RoyalCare HealthServices, Inc. Dallas, Texas
08/2007 - Unknown	Administrator /DON	Trendy Care Home Health Services Rowlett, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as an Owner/Director of Nursing with United RoyalCare HealthServices, Inc., Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year.

7. April 2008 through October 2008, while employed with United RoyalCare HealthServices, Inc., Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to complete documentation of multiple skilled nurse visits to Patients URH0001 and URH0002. Respondent's conduct resulted in incomplete medical records and was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would not have complete information on which to base their care decisions.

8. On or about July 2008 through October 2008, while employed with United RoyalCare Healthservices, Inc., Dallas, Texas, Respondent failed to maintain patient confidentiality in that she had medical records for Patients URH0001 and URH0002 in an unlocked back room of her residence and on her dining room table where they were easily viewed by her family members. Respondent's conduct exposed the patients unnecessarily to a risk of harm from disclosure of their confidential medical information without their written authorization.
9. In response to Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8) Respondent states that:
  - "The missing nurse's notes identified during the agency's state survey had been corrected. The visits were made."
  - On the date of the state survey on October 29, 2008, the surveyor asked to see patients' charts. "The charts were taken from the home office, where they are usually locked up in a file cabinet, to a conference table where the surveyor was. This table is not our regular dining table. We have another dining table in the kitchen."
  - The surveyor went on a fifteen (15) minute break. When he returned, the chart for Patient URH 0002 was still on the table because that was the one he had been reviewing.
  - "To this issue, we have already written a plan of correction, which was accepted, it included appointment of a privacy officer to oversee and maintain confidentiality of patients records."

#### 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 violations of Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(D)&(1)(E) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(1)(C).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 688781 and Vocational Nurse License Number 164597, heretofore issued to PATIENCE UKO UCHE, including revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *et seq.* and this Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's nurse licensure compact privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's licenses are encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a nurse licensure compact privilege without the written permission of the State of Texas and the Board of Nursing in the party state where Respondent wishes to work.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that:

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include nurses. It 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. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Office of the Board to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:*  
<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing documentation. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment only if the course is not being offered by a pre-approved provider. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: 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. RESPONDENT SHALL cause the instructor to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to the Board's office to verify RESPONDENT'S successful completion of the course. This course shall be taken in addition to any other courses stipulated in this Order, if any, and in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board has for relicensure. *Board-approved courses may be found at the following Board website address:*  
<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete 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 program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding this workshop may be found at the following web address: <http://learningext.com/hives/a0f6f3e8a0/summary>.*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Patient Privacy," a 5.4 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 program, RESPONDENT SHALL SUBMIT the continuing education certificate of completion for this program to the Board's office, to the attention of Monitoring. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Information regarding this workshop may be found at the following web address: <http://learningext.com/hives/26c68c0322/summary>.*

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT'S licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for nurse licensure compact privileges, if any.

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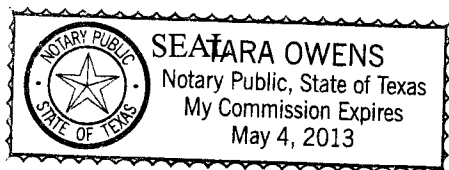
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, 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 when this Order becomes final and the terms of this Order become effective, a copy will be mailed to me. 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 revocation of my licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

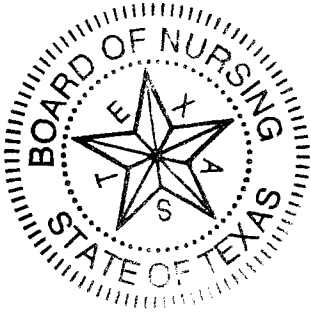
Patience Uko Uche  
PATIENCE UKO UCHE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12 day of April, 2011.



Jana Jones  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 12th day April, 2011, by PATIENCE UKO UCHE, Registered Nurse License Number 688781 and Vocational Nurse License Number 164597, and said Order is final.



Effective this 15th day of April, 2011.

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

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