



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.
Patricia A. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED
License Number 642147 §
issued to VALESHA STEPHENS § ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that VALESHA STEPHENS, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, Registered Nurse License Number 642147, may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on February 16, 2010, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Adam LeCrone, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, Director of Nursing, Executive Director's Designee; John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Bonnie Cone, MSN, RN, Nursing Practice Consultant; Toni Frizell, RN, Investigator; Kathy Duncan, RN, Investigator; and Amy Grissom, RN, Investigator.

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.
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Grayson County College, Denison, Texas, on May 1, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 30, 1997.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/1997-2000	Charge Nurse Community Medical Center Denison, Texas
1/1998-1/2004	Director of Nurses Sunrise Home Health Rockwall, Texas
2/2004-6/2004	Unknown
7/2004-3/2006	Field Nurse Grayson County Home Health Sherman, Texas
3/2006-3/2008	Field Nurse Sunrise Home Health Rockwall, Texas
3/2008-4/2008	Wilson N. Jones Medical Center Sherman, Texas
5/2008-present	Field Nurse Patients Best Choice Home Health McKinney, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Field Nurse with Sunrise Home Health, Rockwall, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and eight (8) months.
7. On or about November 22, 2007, through March 5, 2008, while employed with Sunrise Home Health Services, Rockwall, Texas, Respondent submitted falsified documentation of skilled nurse visits for Patient KL that she did not perform. During the dates of skilled visits documented by Respondent, the patient was admitted to a hospital followed by an admission to a rehabilitation facility. Respondent's conduct was deceptive, created an inaccurate medical record, and resulted in the home health agency to paying her for twenty-eight skilled nurse visits which were not performed.
8. In response to the incidents in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent admits the allegation and indicates she went to the nurse supervisor and reported her actions. Respondent claims stress at home and depression caused her to not be thinking clearly and she deeply regrets making the choice to falsify the skilled nursing visits. Respondent indicates she paid restitution, in the amount of eight hundred forty (\$840.00) dollars to

Sunrise Home Health Services, Rockwall, Texas, in August 2008, for the visits she was paid for but did not make. Respondent indicates that she has undergone extensive treatment for her depression since this incident occurred, and now has an understanding of the reasons she made the choices she did concerning this incident and feels that because of this understanding she will never repeat the action.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, 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)(D) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(6)(A),(6)(G),(6)(H).
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 642147, heretofore issued to VALESHA STEPHENS, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Texas Board of Nursing, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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 multistate licensure privilege, if any, to practice nursing in compact states.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's license is encumbered by this Order, Respondent may not work outside the State of Texas pursuant to a

multistate licensure privilege without the written permission of the Texas Board of Nursing 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 pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry 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.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING A MINIMUM OF SIXTY-FOUR (64) HOURS PER MONTH UNDER THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO

NOT REQUIRE A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each present employer within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL notify all future employers in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations on RESPONDENT's license. RESPONDENT SHALL present a complete copy of this Order and all Proposals for Decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge, if any, to each future employer prior to accepting an offer of employment.

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each present employer in nursing to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within ten (10) days of receipt of this Order. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE each future employer to submit the Notification of Employment form, which is provided to the Respondent by the Board, to the Board's office within five (5) days of employment as a nurse.

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered 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 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.

(7) 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 Registered Nurse who supervises the RESPONDENT. These reports shall be submitted by the supervising nurse to the office of the Board at the end of each three (3) month period for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

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

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

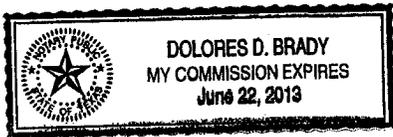
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order is subject to ratification by the Board. When this Order is ratified, the terms of this Order become effective, and 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 license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 10 day of March, 2010.
Valesha Stephens
VALESHA STEPHENS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of March, 2010.

SEAL

Dolores P. Brady
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



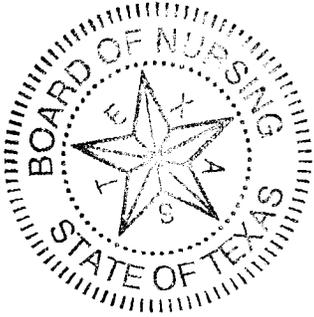
Approved as to form and substance.

Adam LeCrone
Adam LeCrone, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 10 day of March, 2010.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 10th day of March, 2010, by VALESHA STEPHENS, Registered Nurse License Number 642147, and said Order is final.

Effective this 22nd day of April, 2010.




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