



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 P. Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

IN THE MATTER OF	§	BEFORE THE ELIGIBILITY
PERMANENT CERTIFICATE	§	AND DISCIPLINARY
NUMBER 70567	§	COMMITTEE
ISSUED TO	§	OF THE TEXAS
LINDA R. SMITH	§	BOARD OF NURSING

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO: LINDA R. SMITH  
2907 RAILROAD #11  
BAYTOWN, TX 77521

During open meeting held in Austin, Texas, on May 11, 2010, the Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter "Committee") heard the above-styled case. This case was heard, and based on the failure of the Respondent to file a written response to the Formal Charges as required by 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16.

The Committee of the Texas Board of Nursing finds that notice of the facts or conduct alleged to warrant disciplinary action has been provided to Respondent in accordance with Texas Government Code § 2001.054(c) and Respondent has been given an opportunity to show compliance with all the requirements of the Nursing Practice Act, chapter 301 of the Texas Occupations Code, for retention of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

The Committee finds that the Formal Charges were properly initiated and filed in accordance with section 301.458, Texas Occupations Code.

The Committee finds that after proper and timely notice of the violations alleged in the Formal Charges were given to Respondent in this matter, Respondent has failed to file an answer in accordance with 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16.

The Committee finds that the Board is authorized to enter a default order pursuant to Texas Government Code § 2001.056 and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16.

The Eligibility and Disciplinary Committee, after review and due consideration, adopts the proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law as stated in the Formal Charges which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference for all purposes and the Staff's recommended sanction of revocation by default. This Order will be properly served on all parties and all parties will be given an opportunity to file a motion to set aside the default order (22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 213.16(j)). All parties have a right to judicial review of this Order.

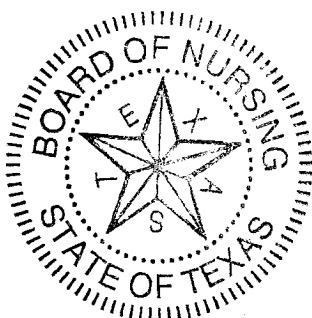
All proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law filed by any party not specifically adopted herein are hereby denied.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that Permanent Certificate Number 70567, previously issued to LINDA R. SMITH, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas be, and the same is hereby, REVOKED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Permanent Certificate Number 70567, previously issued to LINDA R. SMITH, upon receipt of this Order, be immediately delivered to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing.


IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multi-state privilege, if any, to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

Entered this 11th day of May, 2010.



TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

BY:

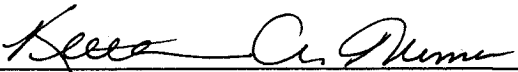
  
KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

Re: Permanent Certificate Number 70567  
Issued to LINDA R. SMITH  
DEFAULT ORDER -REVOKE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 13~~th~~ day of May, 2010, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFAULT ORDER was served by placement in the U.S. Mail via certified mail, and addressed to the following person(s):

LINDA R. SMITH  
2907 RAILROAD #11  
BAYTOWN, TX 77521

BY:   
KATHERINE A. THOMAS, MN, RN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON BEHALF OF SAID BOARD

**In the Matter of Permanent License** § **BEFORE THE TEXAS**  
**Number 70567, Issued to** §  
**LINDA R. SMITH, Respondent** § **BOARD OF NURSING**

**FORMAL CHARGES**

This is a disciplinary proceeding under Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent, LINDA R. SMITH, is a Vocational Nurse holding license number 70567, 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 September 12, 2008, Respondent failed to comply with the Agreed Order issued to her on September 11, 2007, by the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas. Non-compliance is the result of Respondent's failure to comply with Stipulation Number Two (2) of the Order which states, in pertinent part:

(2) Respondent shall, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics....

A copy of the September 11, 2007, Agreed Order, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions of Law is attached and incorporated, by reference, as part of this pleading.

The above action constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 301.452(b)(1) and (10), Texas Occupations Code, and is a violation of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(11)(B).

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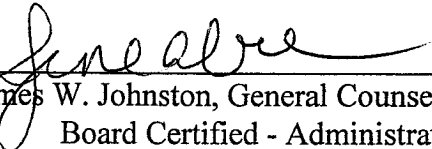
NOTICE IS GIVEN that staff will present evidence in support of the recommended disposition of revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas pursuant to the Board's rules, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 213.27 - 213.33. Additionally, staff will seek to impose on Respondent the administrative costs of the proceeding pursuant to § 301.461, TEX. OCC. CODE ANN. The cost of proceedings shall include, but is not limited to, the cost paid by the Board to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and the Office of the Attorney General or other Board counsel for legal and investigative services, the cost of a court reporter and witnesses, reproduction of records, Board staff time, travel, and expenses. These shall be in an amount of at least one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00).

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, [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us).

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Respondent's past disciplinary history, as set out below and described in the Order which is attached and incorporated by reference as part of these charges, will be offered in support of the disposition recommended by staff: Agreed Order dated September 11, 2007.

Filed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010.

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

  
James W. Johnston, General Counsel  
Board Certified - Administrative Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
State Bar No. 10838300

Jena Renee Koslan Abel, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 24036103

Robert Kyle Hensley, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 50511847

John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel  
State Bar No. 00785533  
333 Guadalupe, Tower III, Suite 460  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P: (512) 305-6824  
F: (512) 305-8101 or (512)305-7401

Attachments: Agreed Order dated September 11, 2007.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse	§	AGREED
License Number 70567	§	
issued to LINDA R. SMITH	§	ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LINDA R. SMITH, Vocational Nurse License Number 70567, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on May 4, 2007, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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 representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Lee College School of Vocational Nursing, Baytown, Texas, on September 17, 1976. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on November 19, 1976.
5. Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history includes:  

November 1976 - 1991	Unknown
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Respondent's complete vocational nursing employment history continued:

1992 - 1997	LVN Memorial Hermann Hospital Houston, Texas
1997 - 2005	LVN San Jacinto Medical Center Baytown, Texas
June 2005 - September 2006	LVN Select Health Care Services, Inc. Baytown, Texas
October 2006 - Present	Unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with Select Health Care Services, Inc., Baytown, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and three (3) months.
7. On September 5, 2006, while employed with Select Health Care Services, Inc., Baytown, Texas, and on assignment at the residence of Patient Medical Record Number 05-345P, Respondent failed to maintain awareness of the patient's whereabouts for approximately forty-five (45) minutes. The patient, a four year-old with a diagnosis of chronic respiratory failure and visual impairment in both eyes, was found by neighbors to be unattended in the parking lot of the apartment community where he resided. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that failure to maintain awareness of the patient's whereabouts could have resulted in the patient suffering harmful consequences.

#### 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 of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§217.11(1)(B) and 217.12(4).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Vocational Nurse License Number 70567, heretofore issued to LINDA R. SMITH, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, and RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *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 vocational 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 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 deliver the wallet-sized license issued to LINDA R. SMITH, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.

(2) 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) contact 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 Chemical Dependency, 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.bne.state.tx.us/about/stipscourses.html>.*

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, RESPONDENT WILL PROVIDE DIRECT PATIENT CARE AND PRACTICE IN A HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, OR OTHER CLINICAL SETTING AND RESPONDENT MUST WORK IN SUCH 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 THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE  
WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) For the duration of the stipulation period, RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or 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 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.

(6) 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 or Licensed Vocational 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) months for one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, RESPONDENT SHALL be issued an unencumbered license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice vocational 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 waive representation by counsel. 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 31 day of July, 2007  
Linda R. Smith  
LINDA R. SMITH, Respondent


Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the State of \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31st day of July, 2007, by LINDA R. SMITH, Vocational Nurse License Number 70567, and said Order is final.

Effective this 11th day of September, 2007.

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