



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 642138 § AGREED  
issued to KAREN SPRAGUE § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bo  
considered the matter of KAREN SPRAGUE, Registered Nurse License Number 642138, hereinafter  
referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have  
violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal  
proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on June 30, 2009, 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 license.
2. Respondent waived 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.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas, on May 1, 1997. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 30, 1997.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

06/1997 - 10/2000	RN	Diagnostic Hospital Houston
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Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

10/2000 - 07/2005	RN	Select Specialty Hospital Houston, Texas
08/2005	Employment history unknown.	
09/2005 - 07/2006	RN	Texas Orthopedic Hospital Houston, Texas
08/2006	Employment history unknown.	
09/2006 - 05/2007	RN	Memorial Hermann Southeast Houston, Texas
06/2007 - 12/2008	RN	The Watershed at Clear Lake Webster, Texas
12/2008 - Present	Employment unknown.	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with The Watershed at Clear Lake, Webster, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and six (6) months.
7. On or about December 8, 2008, while employed as a Registered Nurse with The Watershed at Clear Lake, Webster, Texas, Respondent violated professional boundaries of the nurse/client relationship, in that she made inappropriate advances towards Patient C.G., wrote letters of a suggestive sexual nature and met him at the airport for his departing flight. Additionally, Respondent provided the patient with her address, home phone number and cell phone numbers. Respondents conduct was likely to result in confusion between the needs of the nurse and those of the patient. In addition, Respondent's conduct may have caused delayed distress for the client, which may not be recognized or felt by the client until harmful consequences occur.
8. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent "without qualification or reservation," denies "each and every, all and singularly the purported professional violations set out as having occurred on December 8, 2008," in her as a registered nurse while employed at The Watershed of Clear Lake,, Webster, Texas. Specifically, Respondent denies any inappropriate advances towards patient C. G. She further denies having written any letters of a suggestive nature, and did not accompany the patient to the airport, and did not provide him with her home address or phone number. Respondent is unaware or without knowledge as to how Patient C. G. procured her cell number."

### 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)(J), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(6)(D).
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 642138, heretofore issued to KAREN SPRAGUE, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional 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 REMEDIAL EDUCATION WITH A FINE, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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 KAREN SPRAGUE, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of ratification of this Order.

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL pay a monetary fine in the amount of two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollars. 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.

(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 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>*

(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://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/critical/ctabout.asp>*

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in “Respecting Professional Boundaries,” a 3.9 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://www.learningext.com/products/generalce/boundaries/boundariesabout.asp>.*

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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

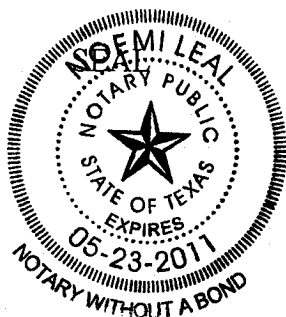
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 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 license to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

Karen Sprague  
KAREN SPRAGUE, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.



Noemi Leal

Notary Public in and for the State of TX

Approved as to form and substance.


Paul A. U. Lord, Sr.  
Paul A.U. Lord, Sr., Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010, by KAREN SPRAGUE, Registered Nurse License Number 642138, and said Order is final.



Effective this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

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