



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

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------|
| In the Matter of Vocational Nurse | § | AGREED |
| License Number 192347 | § | |
| issued to MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS | § | ORDER |

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS, Vocational Nurse License Number 192347, 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 15, 2009, 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 informal proceedings, 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 Nursing from Amarillo College on December 12, 2003. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on January 29, 2004.
5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 01/2004 - 05/2005 | LVN | The Heart Hospital of Northwest Texas Amarillo, Texas |
| 05/2005 - Present | Employment History Unknown | |

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse with The Heart Hospital of Northwest Texas, Amarillo, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and four (4) months.
7. On or about May 30, 2005, while employed with The Heart Hospital of Northwest Texas, Amarillo, Texas, Respondent failed to administer Novolin 8 units at 1700 and failed to administer a bolus of Heparin 2500 Units for a partial thromboplastin time (PTT) of 38.5 at 1430, to Patient Medical Record Number 295720, as ordered by the physician. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from a delay of treatment of his disease process.
8. In Response to Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent states, "May 30, 2005, was during a hectic and at times, almost overwhelming time of my life. I was trying to get my house ready for sell and I just had a baby. I was all alone in caring for my two children. I was very tired. On the day of the medication errors, I was taking care of five patients. At the time of the accuchecks, one of my other patients began to crash. I got involved with caring for that critical patient and failed to give the insulin after doing the accucheck. I also failed to do the Heparin drip calculation monitoring due to the overload with patient care. To the best of my memory, the PTT was not critical."
9. On or about May 30, 2005, while employed with The Heart Hospital of Northwest Texas, Amarillo, Texas, Respondent withdrew medications from the Medication Dispensing System (Pyxis) for patients, but failed to document, or accurately document the administration of the medications in the patient's Medical Administration Records (MAR) and/or nurse's notes, as follows:

| Patient ID | Physician's Order | Medication Dispensing System (Pyxis) | Medication Administration Record |
|------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| 392636 | Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 7.5mg/APAP 500mg 1 tab PO Q4h PRN | Hydrocodone/APAP 7.5/500 1 Tab 2005-05-30 13:08:15 | Not documented by Respondent |
| 295720 | Clonidine HCl / 1 tab PO Q8h | Clonidine HCl .10000000149mg 2005-05-30 19:24:33 | Not documented by Respondent |

10. In Response to Finding of Fact Number Ten (10), Respondent states, "I failed to chart the Hydrocodone and the Clonidine given to the patient. The charge nurse called me at home to confirm that I gave the medications (which I did) and to inform me that I had failed to chart it. After the mistakes of that day, I realized that I needed to make a change. I needed to focus on my children and getting my house sold. I resigned and explained to my supervisor that I needed to take care of my personal life, which included moving to San Marcos. My letter of resignation was accepted. I was never told that there was going to be a report to the Board, nor was I ever peer reviewed. It has been over three years since the date of the allegations. I am a much better nurse now and have learned to manage my time

very well. I love my job every day. I have never received another write-up.”

11. Formal Charges were filed on July 22, 2008.
12. Formal Charges were mailed to Respondent on July 24, 2008.

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)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(B),(C)&(D), and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(B)&(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 192347, heretofore issued to MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS, 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 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 deliver the wallet-sized license issued to MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order.

(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) 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 a course in medication administration. 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. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. The course shall contain a minimum twenty-four (24) hour clinical component which is to be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of medication administration only. In order for the course to be approved, the course's content shall include: a review of proper administration procedures for all standard routes; computation of drug dosages; the five (5) rights of medication administration; factors influencing the choice of route; and possible adverse effects resulting from improper administration. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course to satisfy this stipulation. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor 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>

(4) 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>

(5) 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>

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 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:

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) 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.

(9) 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) 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.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order.

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 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 7 day of July, 2009

Meridith Leigh Ornelas
 MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7 day of July, 2009.

SEAL

Joyce Ann Knott

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas
Expires 12/31/09 JOYCE ANN KNOTT

Approved as to form and substance. nmw

Nancy Roper Willson
 Nancy Roper Willson, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 9th day of July, 2009

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 7th day of July, 2009, by MERIDITH LEIGH ORNELAS, Vocational Nurse License Number 192347, and said Order is final.

Effective this 18th day of August, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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