

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



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

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 571847 §  
And Vocational Nurse License Number 77070 §  
issued to VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Bc considered the matter of VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN, Registered Nurse License Number 571847 and Vocational Nurse License Number 77070, 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 23, 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 representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Texas Eastern College, Tyler, Texas on March 14, 1978. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 17, 1978. Respondent received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas on May 6, 1991. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 26, 1991.

5. Respondent's professional and vocational nursing employment history includes:

1978-1991	Unknown
06/1991-06/1995	GN/Registered Nurse/Charge East Texas Medical Center Tyler, Texas
06/1995-01/1997	Registered Nurse/Charge East Texas Specialty Hospital Tyler, Texas
03/1997-07/1998	Agency Nurse Alpha Staffing Tyler, Texas
08/1998-08/1999	Director of Nursing Corrections Physician Service Blue Bell, Pennsylvania
10/1999-02/2000	Registered Nurse Mesquite Medical Center Mesquite, Texas
02/2000-11/2000	Unknown
11/2000-12/2001	Agency Nurse Nurse Finders Staffing Agency Dallas, Texas
12/2001-2/2006	Staff Nurse Mainland Medical Center Texas City, Texas
12/2006-Present	Unknown

6. At the time of the initial incident in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Thirteen (13), Respondent was employed as a Registered Nurse with Mainland Medical Center, and had been in this position for approximately five (5) years.

7. On or about October 18, 2006, while working in The Emergency Department at Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas, Respondent failed to clarify with the physician an order for Lovenox for Patient Medical Record Number E000357872, who had been diagnosed with intracranial bleeding. Lovenox, which is an anticoagulant and contraindicated for a patient with an intracranial bleed, appeared on the Electronic Medication Administration Record, but did not appear on the physician's orders, which had been noted by Respondent. Instead of contacting the physician and clarifying the order, Respondent administered Lovenox to Patient Medical Record Number E000357872, placing the patient at risk of experiencing increased risk of hemorrhage which may have exacerbated the patient's diagnosis of intracranial bleeding.
8. On or about October 18, 2006, while working in the Emergency Department at Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas, Respondent administered Lovenox to Patient Medical Record Number E000357872, who had been diagnosed with intracranial bleeding without a physician's order. Additionally, Respondent administered Lovenox to Patient Medical Record Number E000357872 when advised by another nurse not to administer the medication. Respondent's actions exposed said patient to the risk of harm in that the administration of Lovenox could have exacerbated the patient's diagnosed condition of Intracranial Bleeding to include hemorrhage and stroke.
9. On or about October 18, 2006, while working in the Emergency Department at Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas, Respondent failed to know the rationale for the effects of the medication Lovenox which she administered to Patient Medical Record Number E000357872, who had been diagnosed with intracranial bleeding. Lovenox, is an anticoagulant and contraindicated for a patient with a diagnosis of intracranial bleeding. Respondent's conduct placed the patient at increased risk of hemorrhage, which could have exacerbated the patient's diagnosis of intracranial bleeding.
10. In response to Finding of Fact Number Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent admits to failing to verify the physician's order for Lovenox. Respondent admits to administering the medication in error, but denies failing to know the rationale for the effects of the medication. Respondent adds that she did not perceive another nurse's comment of "I would not give it if I were you," as advice not to give the medication.
11. On or about November 11, 2006, while employed with Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas, Respondent administered Vancomycin to Patient Medical Record Number E000189527 without a physician's order. Respondent's action exposed said patient to the risk of harm from medication side effects to include but not limited to: anaphylactic shock, nephrotoxicity, and neutropenia.
12. In response to Finding of Fact Number Eleven (11), Respondent admits to administering Vancomycin without a physician's order and adds that she immediately stopped the infusion once she realized her error, with less than 20 ml of the drug infused.

13. On or about June 17, 2007, while employed with Mainland Medical Center, Texas City, Texas, Respondent performed an extensive wound dressing change on Patient Medical Record Number E000427543, with inadequate pain control. Respondent's actions prolonged said patient's suffering and unnecessarily subjected him to physical and psychological trauma.
14. In response to Finding of Fact Number Thirteen (13) Respondent denies the claim and states that she pre-medicated the Patient with Demerol before the dressing change. Respondent adds that she did not note any signs of discomfort or pain from the patient during the procedure, and that she paused when he asked her to. Respondent adds that she could not repeat the Demerol administration as ordered, but did administer oral narcotics to the Patient.

#### 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, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(C),(N), 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 Registered Nurse License Number 571847 and Vocational Nurse License Number 77070, heretofore issued to VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional 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 VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN, 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 physical assessment. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. 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. RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in a clinical setting for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of physical assessment only and shall be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of physical assessment only and shall be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. To be approved, the course shall cover all systems of the body. Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. 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>.*

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order successfully complete a course in pharmacology. 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 course and video programs will not be approved. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length of classroom time. The six (6) hours may not be configured to include homework assignments. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on: all of the major drug classifications and their physiological and therapeutic effects; dosages and administration; precautions; contraindications; and nursing implications. Courses focusing on only one (1) or two (2) groups of drugs, or relating to only one (1) clinical area of practice, will not be accepted. 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 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>.*

(6) 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 REGISTERED NURSE (RN) & VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations conditions 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 conditions 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.

(8) 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.

(9) For the remainder of the stipulation period, 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.

(10) 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 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 professional & vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 16 day of June, 2009.

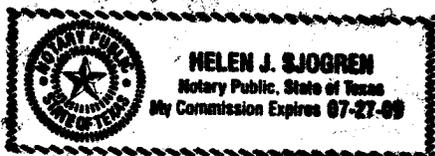
Vera Kathryn Freeman  
VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

SEAL

Helen J. Sjogren

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 16th day of June, 2009, by VERA KATHRYN FREEMAN, Registered Nurse License Number 571847 and Vocational License Number 77070 currently in delinquent status, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23rd day of July, 2009.

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