

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED
License Number 117266 §
issued to HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN § ORDER



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

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN, Vocational Nurse License Number 117266, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may have violated Section 301.452 (b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on February 3, 2009, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent was not in attendance, but agreed to have her case heard telephonically in her absence. Respondent was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. In attendance were Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; and Skylar Caddell, RN,C, Lead 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 representation by counsel, notice and hearing, and consented 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 North Central Texas College Vocational Nurse Program, Gainesville, Texas, on August 15, 1986. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on May 20, 1987.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

5/87 to 9/97	Unknown	
10/97 to 12/98	Staff Nurse	JPS Health Network Fort Worth, Texas
1/99 to 5/00	Unknown	
6/00 to 8/01	Staff Nurse	JPS Health Network Fort Worth, Texas
9/01 to 12/02	Unknown	
1/03 to 2/03	Staff Nurse	Precision Nurse Network Fort Worth, Texas
3/03 to 11/07	Unknown	
12/07 to 4/08	Home Health Nurse	Epic MedStaff Home Health Dallas, Texas
5/08 to Present	Not employed in nursing	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Home Health Nurse with Epic MedStaff Home Health, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) month.

7. On or about January 9, 2008, through February 26, 2008, while employed with Epic MedStaff Home Health Dallas, Dallas, Texas, Respondent inappropriately administered thin liquid broth from chicken noodle soup to Patient Medical Record Number 526807368-347, a 20-month-old patient with a tracheostomy and a swallowing dysfunction, even though the physician ordered the patient to have no liquids by mouth and only small amounts of pureed food. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient from choking or aspiration of liquids which could result in respiratory distress and/or possible demise.

8. On or about March 23, 2008, while employed with, but not on duty for, Epic MedStaff Home Health Dallas, Dallas, Texas, Respondent infringed upon appropriate nurse patient boundaries when she babysat the aforementioned Patient Medical Record Number 526807368-347, while not on duty through Epic MedStaff Home Health, Dallas, Texas, for about an hour while the patient's mother left the premises to go shopping. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient's care giver in that it could have resulted 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 patient's care giver, which may not be recognized or felt by the care giver until after harmful consequences have occurred.

9. In response to the incidents in Finding of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that she started thickening the patient's liquids as soon as she learned to do so from the physician. Regarding the baby sitting, Respondent indicates that she only did so because the regularly scheduled weekend nurse was a no call no show for her assigned shift and because the patient's mother needed to go buy groceries. Although the patient did not require any nursing care while she was there babysitting, Respondent acknowledges that if such care had been required, she would have provided it while not on duty.

#### 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)(A),(1)(B),(1)(C),(1)(J)&(2)(A) and 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 117266, heretofore issued to HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN, 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 REMEDIAL EDUCATION, 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 §211.1 *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 HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of 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) 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>*

(5) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete the course "Feeding Outcomes of Extremely Premature Infants After Neonatal Care," a 2.0 contact hour online program provided by the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal

Nurses (AWHONN) as a companion to an article in the *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*. 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.lejacq.com/awhonn/TrackDetail.cfm?Course=JOGNN207>.

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 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 3 day of 3, 2009.

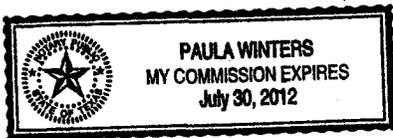
Helena Joyce Coachman  
HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009.

SEAL

Paula Winters

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2009, by HELEN JOYCE COACHMAN, Vocational License Number 117266, and said Order is final.



Effective this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Katherine A. Thomas', is written over a horizontal line.

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