

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License § AGREED
Number 664536 and Vocational Nurse License §
Number 171482 issued to ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II § 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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II, Registered Nurse License Number 664536 and Vocational Nurse License Number 171482, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal proceedings, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on January 9, 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 representation by counsel, 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 and holds a license to practice vocational nursing which is in delinquent status.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree Nursing from Blinn College, Bryan, Texas, on May 14, 1998. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 15, 1999. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on October 13, 1999.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

3/99-3/00	Unknown	
4/00-10/01	RN	College Station Medical College Station, Texas
2/01-10/01	RN	St. Joseph Hospital Bryan, Texas
10/01-8/04	RN	American Mobile Healthcare San Diego, California
9/04-7/07	RN	College Station Medical College Station, Texas
8/07-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed with College Station Medical, College Station, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately two (2) years and ten (10) months.
7. On or about July 20, 2007, while employed with College Station Medical Center, College Station, Texas, Respondent lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that he was found sleeping in a bed covered up with a blanket while on duty. Respondent's condition could have affected his ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could have affected his ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patients in potential danger.
8. Respondent states the supervisor found him in an empty room sitting on the side of the bed watching TV while on break. Respondent states he was not asleep at this time or at any other point during the night and he was right next to the patient's room. He states he was not in the break room because it was too far from the patient's room and there was no one to relieve him.

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)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(5).
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 664536 and Vocational Nurse License Number 171482, heretofore issued to ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice professional and 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 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 nursing in the State of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that while Respondent's licenses are 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 licenses issued to ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II 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 pay a monetary fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). 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.

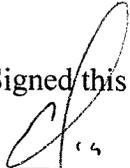
IT IS FURTHER AGREED, that upon full compliance with the terms of this Order, all encumbrances will be removed from RESPONDENT's license and RESPONDENT shall be eligible for multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

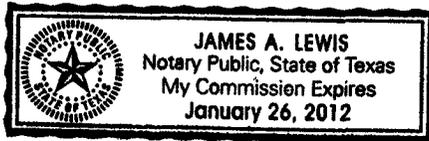
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that 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 licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

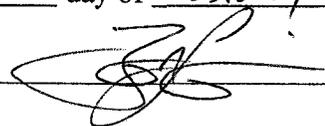
Signed this 19th day of February, 2009.


ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of February, 2009.

SEAL





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 19th day of February, 2009, by ELIAS RAMIREZ HERNANDEZ II, Registered Nurse License Number 664536 and Vocational Nurse License Number 171482, and said Order is final.



Effective this 20th day of February, 2009.

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