

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of Registered Nurse §
License Number 581831 § AGREED
issued to LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS § 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.
Patricia Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, Registered Nurse License Number 581831, may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10) & (13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on September 29, 2008, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Susan Henricks, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; John F. Legris, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; and Cynthia A. Smith, Supervising 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 informal conference, 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 Houston Community College, Houston, Texas, on May 1, 1992. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 31, 1992.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

6/92 - 11/92	GN/Staff Nurse	Memorial City Hospital Houston, Texas
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Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

11/92 - 12/93	Staff Nurse	Brazos Valley Medical Center Hospital College Station, Texas
1/94 - 4/94	ADON	Maywood Manor Nursing Home Kerens, Texas
4/94 - 11/95	Team Leader/ Field Nurse	Carters Special Care Home Health Agencies Hempstead, Texas
12/95 - 1/96	Not employed in nursing	
2/96 - 8/96	Field Nurse/ Case Manager	Country Care Home Health Agency Magnolia, Texas
9/96 - 9/07	Staff Nurse	The University of Texas, Correctional Managed Care, Eastham Unit Lovelady, Texas
10/07	Not employed in nursing	
11/07 - 2/08	Staff Nurse	Colonial Bell Nursing Home Sealy, Texas
3/08 - present	Staff Nurse	Autumn Care Retirement Center Hempstead, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with The University of Texas, Correctional Managed Care, Eastham Unit, Lovelady, Texas , and had been in this position for eleven (11) years.

7. On or about August 27, 2007, while employed at The University of Texas, Correctional Managed Care, Eastham Unit, Lovelady, Texas, Respondent failed to assess, evaluate or intervene appropriately when Inmate ED requested an assessment by the medical unit at 11:27 A.M. due to experiencing chest pain with increasing frequency, extreme numbness in his left arm, very intense pain, black spots in his vision and uncontrollable sweating. Respondent followed policy and requested a security officer to bring Inmate ED to the medical unit to be assessed. However, when Inmate ED failed to appear, Respondent did not conduct a cellside assessment of the inmate, nor did she make any attempt to ensure that the inmate was brought to the medical unit to be assessed. Subsequently, Inmate ED was found deceased in his cell on August 28, 2007, at 0500. Respondent's conduct deprived the inmate of timely medical intervention which may have prevented his demise.
8. On or about August 27, 2007, while employed at The University of Texas, Correctional Managed Care, Eastham Unit, Lovelady, Texas, Respondent failed to document in the medical records of Inmate ED that the inmate had requested an assessment by the medical unit at 11:27 A.M. due to experiencing chest pain with increasing frequency, extreme numbness in left arm, very intense pain, black spots in his vision and uncontrollable sweating. Respondent's conduct deprived subsequent caregivers of essential information on which to base their ongoing medical care.
9. Respondent states that she triaged the sick call messages and gave this particular request priority. It was the responsibility of the nurse' aide on duty that day to call the guards to bring the prisoner to the infirmary. The nurse's aide, who was newly hired, failed to make that call, so Respondent followed the usual procedure to request that the correctional staff to bring the inmate to the infirmary for assessment. Furthermore, because August 27, 2007, was a state holiday, Respondent was the only nurse on duty in the infirmary that day and could not leave it unattended. Respondent documented that she twice made the request but the inmate never appeared. Respondent documented on the inmate's sick call request that she had called down and that the inmate failed to appear for two (2) shifts.

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, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(D)&(M) & (3)(A) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A) & (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 581831, heretofore issued to LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, 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 Registered License Number 581831, previously issued to LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, to practice professional nursing in Texas is hereby SUSPENDED for a period of two(2) years with the suspension STAYED and Respondent is hereby placed on PROBATION for two (2) years with the following agreed terms of probation:

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that this Order SHALL be applicable to Respondent's multistate 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 the 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.

(1) 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.

(2) RESPONDENT SHALL deliver the wallet-sized license issued to LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of this Order for appropriate notation.

(3) 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/disciplinary action](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinary_action).*

(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. 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/disciplinary action](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinary_action).*

(5) 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/disciplinary.action>.

(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 REGISTERED 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 PROBATION CONDITIONS FOR TWO (2) YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

(7) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order

of the Board and the probation 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 probation 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 duration of the probationary 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) months for two (2) years of employment as a nurse.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED that if during the period of probation, an additional allegation, accusation, or petition is reported or filed against the Respondent's license, the probationary period shall not expire and shall automatically be extended until the allegation, accusation, or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

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.

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

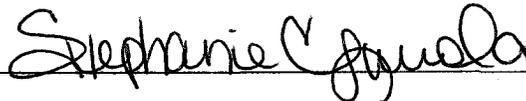
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violations alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 10 day of October, 2008

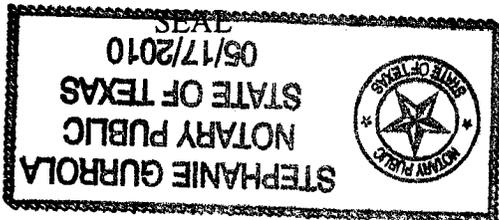


LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, Respondent

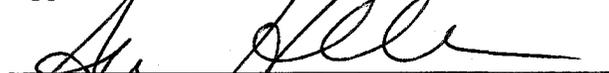
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of October, 2008.



Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



Approved as to form and substance.


SUSAN HENRICKS, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 14th day of October, 2008.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the _____ day of _____, 20____, by LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, Registered Nurse License Number 581831, and said Order is final.

Effective this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

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

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 10th day of October, 2008, by LAURA JEAN CHAMBERS, Registered Nurse License Number 581831, and said Order is final.

Effective this 9th day of December, 2008.




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