BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 663985 issued to SANDRA ELLEN ST. JOHN	§ §	AGREED ORDER

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.
Executive Director of the Board

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the B considered the matter of SANDRA ELLEN ST. JOHN, Registered Nurse License Number 66 hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on October 19, 2008, 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 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 a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan, on May 1, 1985. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on September 8, 1999.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

1985-1996	Unknown	
1997-3/99	RN/Director of Nursing (DON)	North Michigan Health Services Houghton Lake, Michigan

Respondent's professional nursing employment history continued:

4/99-8/03	RN	Surgical Nurse LLC Little Rock, Arkansas
8/03-5/05	RN/DON	Girling Health Care Austin, Texas
6/05-4/06	Unknown	
5/06-9/06	RN	Outreach Health Services Austin, Texas
10/06-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed with Outreach Health Services, Austin, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately one (1) month.

7. On or about June 26, 2006, while employed with Outreach Health Services, Austin, Texas, Respondent failed to properly assess and/or document assessment of Patient SB, who had experienced a fall resulting in a fractured patella. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient to the risk of harm in that significant changes in the patient's status may have gone undetected and prevented a timely intervention.

8. On or about June 26, 2006, while employed with Outreach Health Services, Austin, Texas, Respondent failed to document and report appropriately that the aforementioned Patient SB sustained a fall resulting in a fractured patella. Respondent failed to complete an incident report regarding details of Patient SB's fall. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further care for the patient.

9. Respondent states that after Patient SB fell, Respondent assessed the patient and called 911. When EMS arrived, they assisted Patient SB to her feet and stayed while the patient walked around her room. The patient told EMS that she was okay. Patient SB insisted that she did not need transport to the hospital because her knees did not feel injured to her. After ensuring that a family member would be with the patient and after both Patient SB and the family member were instructed to call if there were any changes in the patient's condition, Respondent states she left the patient's home. Respondent states that she informed her DON the same day and was not told that there was an incident form to be filled out, nor has she ever seen such a form.

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)(13), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.11(1)(A),(B),(D)&(M).

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 663985, heretofore issued to SANDRA ELLEN ST. JOHN, 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 RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of REMEDIAL EDUCATION, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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 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 license issued to SANDRA

ELLEN ST. JOHN 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.*

(2) 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/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html.*

(3) 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.*

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

Signed this 30th day of January, 2009.

Sandra Ellen St John

SANDRA ELLEN ST. JOHN, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of JANUARY, 2009.

SEAL

Notary Public in and for the State of TEXAS

Approved as to form and substance.

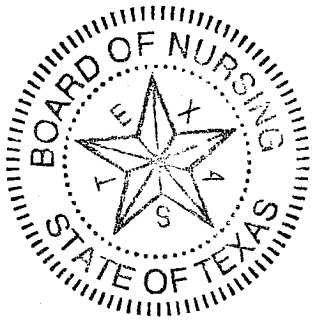
Taralynn R. Mackay

Taralynn R. Mackay, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 21st day of January, 2009.

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 30th day of January, 2009, by SANDRA ELLEN ET. JOHN, Registered Nurse License Number 663985, and said Order is final.

Effective this 4th day of February, 2009.



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