BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse	§	AGREED
License Number 746111 and	§	
Vocational Nurse Licence Number 191745	§	
issued to SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON (NEAL)	§	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 Bo....., considered the matter of SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON (NEAL), Registered Nurse License Number 746111 and Vocational Nurse Licence Number 191745, 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 December 4, 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 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. Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is currently in "delinquent" status.

4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from McClennan Community College, Waco, Texas, on August 14, 2003, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from McClennan Community College, Waco, Texas, on May 25, 2006. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on November 18, 2003, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on August 16, 2007.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

11/2003 - 03/2004	Staff Nurse	Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center Waco, Texas
03/2004 - Unknown	Staff Relief	Crdentia Staffing Temple, Texas
09/2004 - Unknown	CNA Instructor	McClennan Community College Waco, Texas
09/2006 - 03/2007	Charge Nurse	Greenview Manor Waco, Texas
04/2007 - Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Charge Nurse with Greenview Manor, Waco, Texas, and had been in this position for four (4) months.

7. On or about January 21, 2007, while employed as a Charge Nurse with Greenview Manor, Waco, Texas, Respondent failed to appropriately intervene when Resident FB sustained burns from spilled coffee during lunch. Additionally, Respondent failed to appropriately document the incident in the medical record, as required. Although Respondent immediately assessed the resident and found no signs and symptoms of altered skin integrity from the hot coffee, she failed to timely reassess or insure that the resident was reassessed, as signs and symptoms of a second degree burn may not show up immediately. According to facility policy, the nurse who discovers that an incident or accident has occurred, is responsible for notifying the immediate supervisor, which Respondent did not do. Instead, Respondent reported the incident to the resident's assigned nurse, who did not assess the resident until approximately two (2) hours later, at which time there was a second (2nd) degree burn covering a large area on the resident's abdomen and side. The assigned nurse did document the incident in the medical record, notified the physician and family, and obtained orders for wound care, at that time. The resident required medication for pain, and the wound was not fully healed until more than three (3) weeks later. Respondent's conduct resulted in an incomplete medical record, and may have delayed the resident receiving timely medical care.

8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she was "covering lunch duty" in the dining room for one of the other charge nurses when the incident occurred. According to Respondent, the resident picked up another resident's coffee, attempted to drink it, and subsequently spilled the coffee on herself; Respondent immediately removed the coffee, to prevent further spilling, and assessed the resident for any signs and symptoms of burns. Respondent asserts that the resident's skin was "not even pink" at that time, and after assessing the resident and insuring she was not in danger,

assess the resident, and that she "would be responsible for any notification required and for completing the incident report." Respondent states that, in retrospect, she understands that she should have documented her initial assessment and that the assigned Charge Nurse had assumed responsibility for care of the resident; however, at the time, she felt that by immediately reporting the incident to the resident's Charge Nurse, who said that she would follow up, she "removed the responsibility" from herself.

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)(D), (1)(M)&(2)(A) and 217.12(1)(A),(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 746111 and Vocational Nurse License Number 191745, heretofore issued to SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON, including revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, 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 privileges, 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 SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON (NEAL) 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. *Information regarding Board-approved courses in Texas Nursing Jurisprudence may be found at the Board's website 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 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.*

(4) 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.*

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

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 licenses to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 30 day of Jan, 2009.

Sarah Abigail Denison

SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON, Respondent

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

SEAL

LISA TORREZ
Notary Public, State of Texas
My Commission Expires
September 11, 2012

Lisa Torrez

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 30th day of January, 2009, by SARAH ABIGAIL DENISON, Registered Nurse License Number 746111 and Vocational Nurse License Number 191745, and said Order is final.

Effective this 5th day of February, 2009.

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