

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse  
License Number 136240  
issued to JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT

§ AGREED  
§  
§ ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT, Vocational Nurse License Number 136240, 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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on July 11, 2007, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board.

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 conference, notice and hearing, and agreed 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 Southeast Arkansas College, formerly known as Pines Vocational-Technical School, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on February 15, 1990. Respondent was licensed to practice practical nursing in the State of Arkansas on November 22, 1991, and was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on March 4, 1992.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

11/1991 to 12/1992                      Unknown



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

Respondent's nursing employment history continued:

01/1993 to 03/1993	Charge Nurse	Southview Nursing Center Tyler, Texas
04/1993 to 05/1994	Charge Nurse	Park Place Nursing Center Tyler, Texas
06/1994 to 02/1996	Charge Nurse	Silver Leaves Nursing Center Garland, Texas
03/1996 to 03/2005	Assistant Director of Nursing	Collinwood Nursing & Rehab. Plano, Texas
04/2005 to Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the incident in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent was employed as Assistant Director of Nursing with Collinwood Nursing & Rehabilitation, Plano, Texas, and had been in this position for eight (8) years and eleven (11) months.
7. On or about February 28, 2005, while employed as Assistant Director of Nursing with Collinwood Nursing & Rehabilitation, Plano, Texas, Respondent failed to initially assess and/or ensure periodic assessments of Patient Medical Record Number 5079 by staff, after being notified that a quantity of medication had been found in the patient's room. Instead, Respondent confiscated the medications and placed them in her office. According to Respondent, she felt she knew what the medications were. Subsequently, the patient suffered a change of condition and was later admitted to the hospital for a possible drug overdose. Respondent's conduct unnecessarily exposed the patient to risk of harm from complications of unknown drug interactions.
8. On or about February 28, 2005, while employed as Assistant Director of Nursing with Collinwood Nursing & Rehabilitation, Plano, Texas, Respondent failed to notify the physician that the aforementioned Patient Medical Record Number 5079 may have ingested unknown quantities of what may have been Neurontin and Coumadin. Instead, Respondent completed her shift without directing staff to monitor the patient and/or to notify the physician regarding any assessed changes of condition. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it deprived care givers of vital information that would be required to institute timely interventions to stabilize the patient.
9. On or about February 28, 2005, while employed as Assistant Director of Nursing with Collinwood Nursing & Rehabilitation, Plano, Texas, Respondent failed to ensure that staff nurses completed appropriate assessments and notified the physician of the changes of condition of the aforementioned Patient Medical Record Number 5079, consistent with symptoms characterized as "acting stoned." Respondent failed to ensure that the physician was notified that unknown medications had been confiscated from the

patient's room earlier in the day. Instead, Respondent directed that staff seek direction from the Director of Nursing, who had not been made aware of or informed of the earlier events. Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patient in that it deprived care givers of vital information that would be required to institute timely interventions to stabilize the patient.

10. In response to the incident in Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) through Nine (9), Respondent states that with regard to the failure to assess, she was not notified of the change of status of the patient and that she was busy performing end of month reports, and, as a result, she forgot to give the unidentified medications to the Director of Nursing until the following day, when she discovered the patient had been sent to the hospital the night before. With regard to the failure to notify, Respondent states that when she was called at home and told the patient appeared stoned, she called the Director of Nursing since she had never before been faced with that type of problem.

#### 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) and 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(2)&(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 136240, heretofore issued to JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT, 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 Board of Nurse Examiners, that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of a WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS, 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 Vocational Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.01 *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 vocational 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 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 JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT, to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners within ten (10) days from the date of ratification of this Order for appropriate notation.

(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 Chemical Dependency, 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.bne.state.tx.us/about/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.bne.state.tx.us/about/stipscourses.html>.*

**IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A LICENSED VOCATIONAL 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 STIPULATIONS FOR ONE (1) YEAR OF EMPLOYMENT. THE LENGTH OF THE STIPULATION PERIOD WILL BE EXTENDED UNTIL SUCH TWELVE (12) MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED. PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT OR OF EMPLOYMENT THAT DO NOT REQUIRE THE USE OF A VOCATIONAL NURSE (LVN) LICENSE WILL NOT APPLY TO THIS STIPULATION PERIOD:**

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL notify each present employer in nursing of this Order of the Board and the stipulations 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 stipulations 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.

(5) 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.

(6) RESPONDENT SHALL be supervised by a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Vocational 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.

(7) 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 or Licensed Vocational 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 one (1) year of employment as a nurse.

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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

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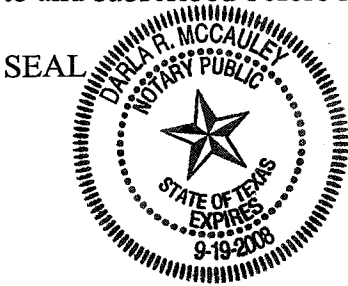
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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

Signed this 31 day of August, 2007.

Joyce Renee Priddett  
JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31 day of August, 2007.




Darla R. McCauley

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 31st day of August, 2007, by JOYCE RENEE PRIDGETT, Vocational Nurse License Number 136240, and said Order is final.

Effective this 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007.



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