

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Charge Nurse in the Medical Surgical Unit of Corpus Christi Medical Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, and had been in this position for eight (8) years and three (3) months.
7. On or about May 29, 2007, while employed as a Charge Nurse in the Medical Surgical Unit of Corpus Christi Medical Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, Respondent failed to ensure that a physician was notified when Patient Number 540195 was received from the surgery recovery room with unstable vital signs, including a critically low blood pressure of 77/31 and an elevated pulse of 120, which was significantly different than the report of the patient's condition she had received from the recovery room nurse. Low blood pressures along with elevated pulse rates can be signs of post-surgical bleeding, and the patient was placed in the Trendelenburg position (a position with the patient's head placed lower than the chest and the legs elevated higher than the chest which helps compensate for low blood pressure). Over the next three (3) hours, both the patient's blood pressure and pulse remained variable and he complained of numbness and tingling in his left lower extremity, until the Staff Nurse assigned to the patient discontinued the Trendelenburg position because she believed the patient's blood pressure was within normal limits. Twenty (20) minutes later, however, Respondent found the patient nonresponsive, sitting in bed, pale, with a critically low blood pressure and blood oxygen level, and with an elevated pulse. Neither Respondent nor the Staff Nurse called for a physician or the Rapid Response Team at that time, and instead, placed the patient back into Trendelenburg position and started a higher level of oxygen administration. After ten (10) minutes, Narcan was administered to reverse the effects of any excessive narcotics; however, the Rapid Response Team was not called until five (5) minutes later when the patient continued to remain nonresponsive. After being intubated and transferred to the Intensive Care Unit, a Computed Tomography scan indicated that the patient had suffered hypovolemic shock after developing arterial bleeding from the common iliac artery. Although the patient underwent immediate surgery to control the bleeding and repair the hematoma that resulted, over the next two (2) months his condition continued to deteriorate and he expired after his lumbar wound became infected with VRE (Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci), after he developed multisystem failure, and after his left lower leg had to be amputated. Respondent's conduct may have contributed to the patient's subsequent demise.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that she performed her duties based upon information she was receiving from the nurses, the surgeon, and the anesthesiologist who were involved in the patient's care. Respondent states that she did question the recovery room nurse regarding the patient's low blood pressure, that she was assured that both the surgeon and the anesthesiologist were aware, and that they felt that the patient was stable for transfer to the floor. Respondent indicates that she accepted the patient's transfer because, based on past experiences within the facility, she had been informed by the Clinical Nurse Coordinator that a patient who she felt was unstable would come to the Medical Surgical Unit from the recovery room only if the physicians were aware of the patient's condition and approved the transfer. Regarding this patient, Respondent indicates that the recovery room nurse assured her that although the patient's blood pressure was low, that his vital signs were stable and that all physician's were well informed of his condition. Respondent affirms that she has since become aware that the patient's blood pressure was never stable despite the documentation and statements by the recovery room nurse to the contrary.

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)(B),(1)(D),(1)(M), (1)(N)&(1)(P) and 217.12(1)(B),(1)(C)&(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 657895, heretofore issued to KAREN HUDSON, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice 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 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 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 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 KAREN HUDSON, to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing 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.bon.state.tx.us/about/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>.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED, SHOULD RESPONDENT PRACTICE AS A 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 REGISTERED NURSE (RN) 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 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 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 nursing in the State of Texas.

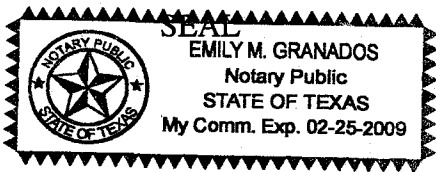
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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

Signed this 28 day of February, 2008.

Karen Hudson
KAREN HUDSON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28 day of February, 2008
Emily M. Granados
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 28th day of February, 2008, by KAREN HUDSON, Registered Nurse License Number 657895, and said Order is final.

Effective this 17th day of April, 2008.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line.

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