

BEFORE THE 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.
Patricia P. Thomas
Executive Director of the Board

In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 708507 § AGREED
issued to IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE § ORDER

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE, Registered Nurse License Number 708507, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may have violated Section 301.452 (b)(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on December 18, 2007, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was notified of her right to be represented by legal counsel and elected to waive representation by counsel. In attendance were Mary Beth Thomas, PhD, RN, Director of Nursing, Executive Director's Designee; E. Joy Sparks, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Denise Benbow, MSN, RN, Nursing Consultant; Scott Torres, Investigator; and Kim L. Williamson, RN, Investigator.

Subsequent to the informal conference Respondent retained Taralynn R. Mackay, Attorney at Law.

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 notice and hearing, and consented to the entry of this Order.

3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received a Diploma in Nursing from School of Nursing, Mater Misericordiae, Afikdo, Nigeria, in May 2002. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in Nigeria in August 2002, was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Florida on March 10, 2004, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas in August 2, 2004.
5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

8/02 to 2/03	RN Life Care Clinic Akwaibond, Nigeria
2/03 to Unknown	RN T & T Home Health Dallas, Texas
3/04 to 1/05	RN, as needed Dallas Regional Medical Center Mesquite, Texas
9/04 to 11/04	RN Odyssey Hospice Dallas, Texas
11/04 to Unknown	RN Legacy Home Health Plano, Texas
3/3/05 to 9/23/05	RN Texas Specialty Hospital at Dallas Dallas, Texas
10/05 to Present	RN Select Specialty Hospital Dallas, Texas
11/06 to Present	RN, as needed Dallas Regional Medical Center Mesquite, Texas
6. At the time of the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a RN with Texas Specialty Hospital at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, and had been in this position for (5) months.

7. On or about August 17, 2005, while employed as a RN with Texas Specialty Hospital at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, Respondent administered excessive Morphine Sulfate (MS) 10 mg intravenously to Patient Medical Record Number 103614 in that another nurse had administered the same amount of MS to the patient thirty (30) minutes earlier, and the MS was to be administered only before a dressing change. There was no documentation of the amount of MS administered by Respondent on the Medication Administration Record, and the dose range for the MS was 5 mg to 10 mg. MS is a strong narcotic medication that may cause respiratory depression or arrest. Shortly after Respondent administered the MS, the patient went into respiratory arrest, was resuscitated and was transported to another facility. Respondent's conduct exposed the patient unnecessarily to a risk of harm from an excessive dose of Morphine and may have contributed to the patient suffering respiratory arrest.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that the prior nurse had not documented the administration of MS on the Medication Administration Record before Respondent gave the medication. When Respondent went to document the administration of MS, she noticed the medication had been given thirty (30) minutes earlier by another nurse.
9. The Board finds that evidence indicates that the prior withdrawal of the MS was visible on the view screen of the medication dispensing machine when Respondent withdrew the second dose of MS; however, Respondent did not look at the screen when she withdrew the MS.
10. On October 20, 2007, Respondent completed the Board-approved course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills," which would have been a requirement of this Order.
11. On November 28, 2007, Respondent completed the course "Medication Errors: Detection & Prevention," which would have been a requirement of this Order.

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)(C)&(1)(D) and 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 708507, heretofore issued to IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE, 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, 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 Texas Board of Nursing 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 IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE to the office of the Texas Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of 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 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*

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<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/about/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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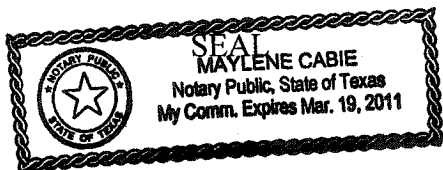
RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 30 day of March, 2008.

Ifeoma Nwakaego Irokwe
IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 31st day of March, 2008.



Mcabie
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 15th day of February, 2008.

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 March, 2008, by IFEOMA NWAKAEGO IROKWE, Registered Nurse License Number 708507, and said Order is final.

Effective this 16th day of April, 2008.



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