



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

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse § AGREED  
License Number 158901 §  
issued to CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT, Vocational Nurse License Number 158901, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 302.402(a)(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on March 9, 2008, 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 Victoria College-Hallettsville, Hallettsville, Texas, on August 9, 1996. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on September 16, 1996.
- 5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

9/96-3/98	Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)	Smithville Regional Hospital Smithville, Texas
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Respondent's vocational nursing employment history continued:

3/98-11/00	LVN / Surgical Tech.	South Austin Hospital Austin, Texas
11/00-6/01	LVN / Surgical Tech.	Surgicare of South Austin Austin, Texas
6/01-7/06	LVN / Circulator Nurse / Scrub Nurse	South Austin Surgery Center Austin, Texas
8/06-Present	Unknown	

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a LVN Circulator Nurse with South Austin Surgery Center, Austin, Texas, and had been in this position for approximately two (2) years and three (3) months.
7. On or about September 24, 2003, while employed as a LVN Circulator Nurse with South Austin Surgery Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent failed to identify the correct operative site for Patient Medical Record Number 9305317, prior to arthroscopic surgery, and consequently, the surgery was completed on the wrong knee. Respondent's conduct caused the patient to suffer the pain and potential complications, including increased risk of infection, associated with an additional, unnecessary surgery.
8. On or about July 13, 2006, while employed as a LVN Scrub Nurse with South Austin Surgery Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent failed to initiate or inquire about a "time out" prior to the surgeon beginning an arthroscopic surgery on the left knee of Patient Medical Record Number 9313525. A "time out" is a pre-surgical safety check to ensure that a scheduled surgery is performed on the correct site, and because one had not been performed for this patient, it was not discovered until after the surgery was completed that the surgery had been performed on the wrong knee. Respondent's conduct contributed to the patient suffering the pain and potential complications, including increased risk of infection, associated with an additional, unnecessary surgery.
9. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that there was no "time out" policy at the time, that the surgery schedule reflected the incorrect knee, and that the patient verbalized the wrong site to both herself and to the anesthesiologist before the surgery began. As a result of this incident, Respondent states that she was asked by the facility to devise and implement a policy and procedure to prevent the same thing from happening again. According to Respondent, the facility began placing fluorescent green identification bands on the operative extremity in the pre-operative area, and the bands were to be removed prior to the surgery and only by the surgeon. Regarding the incident in Finding of Fact Number Eight (8), Respondent admits that while she was one (1) of four (4) surgical staff who had the opportunity to inquire about the "time out," she states that when she entered the operating room, the Circulator Nurse was already applying the surgical skin prep and no green band was visible on the extremity. According to Respondent, the Circulator Nurse discovered the error after the surgery and while preparing the patient for transfer.

### 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 Sections 301.452(b)(10)&(13) and 302.402(a)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §§ 217.11(1)(B),(1)(M)&(1)(P)[*effect. 9/28/04*], 217.12(1)(A),(1)(B)&(4)[*effect. 9/28/04*] and 239.11(27)(A).
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 158901, heretofore issued to CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT, 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 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 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 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 CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT, 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/disciplinary action>.*

(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 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 conditions 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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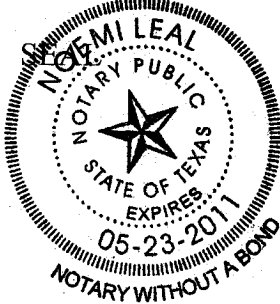
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008  
Cathryn Vanessa Garrett  
CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT, Respondent

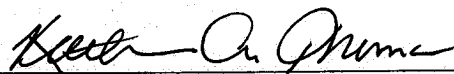
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008.  
Noemi Leal  
Notary Public in and for the State of TX





WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008, by CATHRYN VANESSA GARRETT, Vocational Nurse License Number 158901, and said Order is final.

Effective this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.



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