

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 Thomas*  
Executive Director of the Board

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse §  
License Number 670495, issued to § AGREED ORDER  
CARISSA ANNE CROSS §

An investigation by the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, produced evidence indicating that CARISSA ANNE CROSS, License Number 670495, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, may have violated Section 301.452 (b)(10), Texas Occupations Code.

An informal conference was held on March 25, 2008, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464, Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Jennifer L. Rangel, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; James W. Johnston, General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Denise Benbow, MSN, RN, CMSRN, Nursing Consultant; Scott Torres, Investigator; Nancy Krause, RN, Investigator; and Noemi Leal, Supervising Investigator.

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 Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, in May 2000, and received a Masters in Nursing from The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, in May 2004. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on July 18, 2000. Respondent completed a Family Nurse Practitioner program at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, on May 10, 2004 and was granted Advanced Practice Nurse authorization on May 14, 2004 and prescriptive authorization on May 27, 2004.

5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

2000 - 2004	Staff Nurse Adult ICU	Brackenridge Hospital Austin, Texas
2001 - 2003	Teaching Assistant	The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Austin, Texas
2004 - 2006	Nurse Practitioner	Volunteer Health Clinic Austin, Texas
2004 - Present	Nurse Practitioner	Austin Urological Associates Austin, Texas
2004 - Present	Nurse Practitioner	Pflugerville Family Clinic Pflugerville, Texas
01/08 - Present	Clinical Nursing Instructor	The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Austin, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident, Respondent was employed as a Nurse Practitioner with Austin Urological Associates, Austin, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) years.
7. On or about June 26, 2006, while employed with Austin Urological Associates, Austin, Texas, and on assignment at St. David's Medical Center, Austin, Texas, Respondent made false entries in medical records for patients in that she signed her supervising physician's name in medical records including the Operative Report, Imaging Referral Form, Physician Progress Notes, and Physician's Orders. Respondent's conduct resulted in an inaccurate medical record and was likely to deceive subsequent care givers who relied on the accuracy of the information while providing care to the patient.
8. Respondent states that the supervising physician asked her if she could sign off some medical records. The physician was going to review them in person within twenty-four (24) hours. Her intent was to sign as an agent and with no intent to deceive. Respondent realizes that she should have signed her name and not the physician's.

#### 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 Board believes that the evidence received is sufficient to prove violations of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12 (6) (A) (H).
4. The Board believes that the evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 670495, heretofore issued to CARISSA ANNE CROSS, 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 sanctions of REMEDIAL EDUCATION AND A FINE, 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 CARISSA ANNE CROSS 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 pay a monetary fine in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250). RESPONDENT SHALL pay this fine within forty-five (45) days of entry of this Order. Payment is to be made directly to the Texas Board of Nursing in the form of cashier's check or U.S. money order. Partial payments will not be accepted.

(3) 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>.*

(4) 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, 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

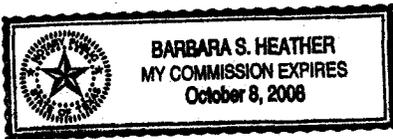
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order, and any conditions of said Order, to avoid 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 10 day of June, 2008.

Carissa A. Cross  
CARISSA ANNE CROSS, RESPONDENT

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of June, 2008.

SEAL



Barbara S. Heather  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Jennifer L. Rangel  
Jennifer L. Rangel, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 10 day of June, 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008, by CARISSA ANNE CROSS, License Number 670495, and said Order is final.

Effective this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2008.



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