



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 Registered Nurse License Number 696869 § AGREED  
issued to SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board considered the matter of SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ, Registered Nurse License Number 696869, 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 informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 22, 2008, by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director.

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 informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent is currently licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.
4. Respondent received an Associate Degree from Temple College, Temple, Texas, on May 9, 2003. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 24, 2003.
5. Respondent's professional nursing employment history includes:

6/03 - 1/06	Staff Nurse	Richards Memorial Hospital
	Operating & Emergency Room	Rockdale, Texas

Respondent's professional nursing employment continued:

2/06 - Present	Director of Nursing	Richards Memorial Hospital Rockdale, Texas
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6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as the Director of Nursing with Richards Memorial Hospital, Rockdale, Texas, and had been in this position for four (4) months.
7. On or about April 2006, while employed as the Director of Nursing with Richards Memorial Hospital, Rockdale, Texas, Respondent allowed an Emergency Room Technician (EMT) to perform duties that were beyond his educational preparation, training and skills, including patient triage and patient assessments. The staffing of this emergency room included the physician, a licensed nurse and the EMT. During this time, the EMT successfully completed the first semester of a professional nursing education program, which would meet the facility's job qualifications of a Student Nurse Technician. However, the duties of a Student Nurse Technician do not include patient triage or patient assessments. Additionally, the EMT never completed the professional nurse education program and was never licensed to practice professional or vocational nursing in the State of Texas. Respondent's conduct deceived fellow staff members as well as the public.
8. In response to the incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent states that the EMT had been employed in the Emergency Department since October 2004, and he had previous experience as an EMT and as a Paramedic. Respondent explains that she interpreted the duties of the Student Nurse Technician to include focused assessments if under the supervision of a licensed nurse or physician.

#### 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)(S),(1)(U)&(3)(B) and 217.12(1)(B),(1)(D)&(1)(F).
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 696869, heretofore issued to SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ, 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 Professional 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas.

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 SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ 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 Substance Abuse, Misuse, Substance Dependency, or other Substance Use Disorder; 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](http://www.bon.state.tx.us/disciplinary_action).*

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.

Sheila Lopez  
SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.

SEAL



Crystal Foley

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Fletcher H. Brown  
Fletcher H. Brown, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008, by SHEILA TURPEN LOPEZ, Registered Nurse License Number 696869, and said Order is final.

Effective this 27th day of May, 2008.



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