

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



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In the Matter of Vocational Nurse License Number 126918  
issued to AURORA B. HOPKINS

§ AGREED  
§ ORDER

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

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of AURORA B. HOPKINS, Vocational Nurse License Number 126918, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

An informal conference was held on July 11, 2008, at the office of the Texas Board of Nursing, in accordance with Section 301.464 of the Texas Occupations Code.

Respondent appeared in person. Respondent was represented by Kenda Dalrymple, Attorney at Law. In attendance were Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director; Victoria Cox North, Assistant General Counsel; Anthony L. Diggs, MSCJ, Director, Enforcement Division; Cynthia A. Smith, Supervising Investigator; and Marcia Wilson, RN, 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 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 South Plains College, Levelland, Texas, on August 30, 1989. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on December 7, 1989.

5. Respondent's vocational nursing employment history includes:

12/1989 - 06/2001	Staff Nurse	Methodist IHS Lubbock, Texas
07/2001 - 04/2005	Staff Nurse	Weston Inn Temple, Texas
05/2005 - 07/2005	Treatment Nurse	Crestview Manor Belton, Texas
08/2005 - Present	Staff Nurse	Hill Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Copperas Cove, Texas

6. At the time of the initial incident in Finding of Fact Number Seven (7), Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Hill Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Copperas Cove, Texas, and had been in this position for one (1) year and two (2) months.
7. On or about October 31, 2006, while employed with Hill Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Copperas Cove, Texas, Respondent failed to administer three (3) Glucose tablets or a Glucagon injection to Resident MH, as ordered, after determining that the resident's blood sugar was critically reduced to a level of forty (40). After a series of hypoglycemic episodes, the resident was found unresponsive on November 10, 2006, and was transferred to the hospital where she was diagnosed with anoxic metabolic encephalopathy. The resident remained unresponsive in the hospital and subsequently expired.
8. On or about November 1, 2006, while employed with Hill Country Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Copperas Cove, Texas, Respondent failed to notify the physician when she determined that the blood sugar of the aforementioned Resident MH was critically low at a value of fifty (50) and the resident was having emesis. Respondent failed to recheck the low blood sugar reading within thirty (30) minutes, as required by the facility's policy for symptomatic blood sugar readings less than sixty (60). Nine (9) days later, on November 10, 2006, Respondent called 911 for an emergent transfer to an acute care facility after she found the resident unresponsive and with a blood sugar too low to register. Upon arrival at the hospital's emergency department, the resident suffered respiratory failure and was admitted to the hospital where it was determined that she had developed anoxic and metabolic encephalopathy. The resident expired seven (7) days after admission.
9. In response to the incidents of Findings of Fact Numbers Seven (7) and Eight (8), Respondent states that on October 31, 2006, she rechecked the resident's blood sugar after lunch and it was 115, which was within normal range. Although not documented, Respondent states also that she recalls phoning the physician that day. Regarding the incident on November 1, 2006, Respondent states that she did not call the physician on because Resident MH said she felt better after receiving the phenergan and glucagon injection, and her blood sugar had returned to the normal range.

10. On or about May 25, 2007, Respondent successfully completed a Board approved course in Nursing Documentation, which would have been a requirement of this Order.
11. Charges were filed on February 29, 2008.
12. Charges were mailed to Respondent on March 6, 2008.
13. Respondent filed her Answer to the Formal Charges on March 21, 2008.

#### 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)(C),(1)(D),(1)(M),(1)(P)&(2)(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 126918 heretofore issued to AURORA B. HOPKINS, including revocation of Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas.
5. Section 301.463(d) of the Act provides that this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408 of the Texas Rules of Evidence for purposes of civil or criminal litigation.

#### 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, Texas Occupations Code §§301.001 *et seq.*, the Rules and Regulations Relating to Nurse Education, Licensure and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §211.1 *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 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 AURORA B. HOPKINS 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/disciplinaryaction/stipscourses.html>*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in physical assessment. RESPONDENT SHALL obtain Board approval of the course prior to enrollment. Home study courses and video programs will not be approved. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The didactic portion of this course shall be a minimum of six (6) hours in length. RESPONDENT SHALL perform physical assessments on live patients in a clinical setting for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. The clinical component SHALL focus on tasks of physical assessment only and shall be provided by the same Registered Nurse who provides the didactic portion of this course. To be approved, the course shall cover all systems of the body. Performing assessments on mock patients or mannequins WILL NOT be accepted. The course description shall indicate goals and objectives for the course, resources to be utilized, and the methods to be used to determine successful completion of the course. RESPONDENT SHALL successfully complete both the didactic and clinical portions of the course to satisfy this stipulation. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the instructor 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/disciplinaryaction/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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

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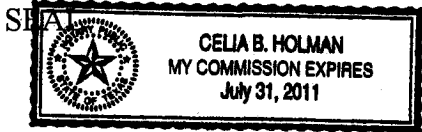
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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I 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 vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 4 day of Sept, 2008.  
Aurora B. Hopkins  
AURORA B. HOPKINS, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008.



Celia B. Holman  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

Approved as to form and substance.

Kenda Dalrymple  
Kenda Dalrymple, Attorney for Respondent

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 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 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008, by AURORA B. HOPKINS, Vocational Nurse License Number 126918, and said Order is final.

Effective this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.



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