



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 BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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In the Matter of License Number 619073     §     AGREED  
issued to ANGELA M. HECKER             §     ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of ANGELA M. HECKER, Registered Nurse License Number 619073, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(9), (10), &(12), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on April 15, 2004, 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 representation by counsel, 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 in Nursing from Howard College, Big Spring, Texas, in May 1995. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 30, 1995.
5. Respondent's professional employment history includes:

05/95 - 11/00	GN/Charge Nurse/ Relief House Supervisor	VA Medical Center Big Spring, Texas
01/99 - 05/01	MDS Coordinator	Sunbridge Health System Stanton, Texas

Respondent's professional employment history continued:

06/01 - 06/02	Charge Nurse/ICU	Titus Regional Medical Center Mt. Pleasant, Texas
01/03 - 07/03	Staff Nurse	Wilson N. Jones Medical Center Sherman, Texas
08/03 - Present	Unknown	

6. On or about July 22, 2003, while employed with Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas, Respondent may have lacked fitness to practice professional nursing in that Respondent exhibited impaired behavior including, but not limited to: talking nonsensically, mumbling, falling asleep, and unable to keep track of patient notes/charts/flowsheets. Respondent's conduct could affect her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could affect her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.
7. On or about July 22, 2003, while employed with Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas, Respondent withdrew narcotics from the Omnicell medication dispensing system for patients but failed to document the administration of the medication in the patients' Medication Administration Record (MAR) and/or Nurses Notes, as follows:

Date/Time	Patient	Physician's Order	Omnicell	MAR	Nurses Notes	Wastage
7/22/03@0732	43164201	Morphine Sulfate 8mg	Morphine 10mg	No	No	2mg
7/22/03@1022	same	same	Morphine 10mg	No	No	No
7/22/03@1037	43131150	Hydrocodone 1 tab	Hydrocodone 1 tab	No	No	No
7/22/03@0147	43001460	Hydrocodone 1 tab	Hydrocodone 1 tab	No	No	No
7/22/03@1113	43122282	Demerol 50mg	Demerol 50mg	No	No	No
7/22/03@1138	same	Hydrocodone 1 tab	Hydrocodone 1 tab	No	No	No
7/22/03@0234	same	Demerol 50mg	Demerol 50mg	1350	No	No

Respondent's conduct was likely to injure the patients in that subsequent care givers would rely on her documentation to further medicate the patient which could result in an overdose.

8. On or about July 11, 2003 and July 22, 2003, while employed with Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas, Respondent withdrew Morphine Sulfate from the Omnicell medication dispensing system for patients, but failed to follow the policy and procedure for the wastage. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive the hospital pharmacy and placed them in violation of Chapter 481 of the Texas Health and Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act).

9. On or about July 22, 2003, while employed with Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas, Respondent misappropriated Morphine Sulfate, Demerol, and Hydrocodone belonging to the facility and/or the patients thereof. Respondent's conduct was likely to defraud the facility and the patients of the cost of the medications.
10. On or about July 22, 2003, while employed with Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, Sherman, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate use of Morphine Sulfate, Demerol, and Hydrocodone. Possession of Morphine Sulfate, Demerol, and Hydrocodone is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of Morphine Sulfate, Demerol, and Hydrocodone by a Registered Nurse, while subject to call or duty, could impair the nurse's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in the patient's condition, and could impair the nurse's ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to Texas Occupations Code, Sections 301.451-301.455, the Board has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. Notice was served in accordance with law.
3. The evidence received is sufficient to prove violation of Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(12), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(3),(4),(12),(19)&(20).
4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against License Number 619073, heretofore issued to ANGELA M. HECKER, including revocation of Respondent's professional license to practice nursing in the State of Texas.
5. The Board may, in its discretion, order a nurse to participate in a peer assistance program approved by the Board if the nurse would otherwise have been eligible for referral to peer assistance pursuant to Section 301.410, Texas Occupations Code.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT, in lieu of the sanction of Revocation under Section 301.453, Texas Occupations Code, SHALL comply with the following conditions for such a time as is required for RESPONDENT to successfully complete the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses (TPAPN):

(1) RESPONDENT SHALL, within forty-five (45) days following the date of entry of this final Order, apply to and be accepted into the TPAPN, which SHALL include payment of a non-refundable participation fee in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) payable to TPAPN.

(2) Upon acceptance into the TPAPN, RESPONDENT SHALL waive confidentiality and provide a copy of the executed TPAPN contract to the Board of Nurse Examiners.

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL comply with all requirements of the TPAPN contract during its term.

(4) RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the TPAPN to notify the Board of Nurse Examiners of any violation of the TPAPN contract.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED and ORDERED, RESPONDENT SHALL comply in all respects with the Nursing Practice Act, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas as amended, Texas Occupations Code, Section §§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 privileges, 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, SHOULD RESPONDENT fail to comply with this Order or the terms of the participation agreement with the TPAPN, such noncompliance will result in further disciplinary action including revocation of Respondent's license and multistate licensure privileges, if any, to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas.

RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

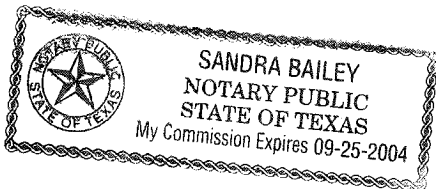
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation alleged herein. I do acknowledge possessing a diagnosis that deems me eligible to participate in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Conditions One (1) through Four (4) of this Order to obtain disposition of the allegations through peer assistance and to avoid further disciplinary action in this matter. I waive judicial review of this Order. I understand that this Order becomes effective upon acceptance by the Executive Director on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners, 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 professional nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

Angela M. Hecker  
ANGELA M. HECKER, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004.

SEAL



Sandra Bailey  
Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby accept and enter the Agreed Order that was signed on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2004, by ANGELA M. HECKER, License Number 619073, and said Order is final.

Entered and effective this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.



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