



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

In the Matter of § AGREED
Registered Nurse License Number 604254 §
& Vocational Nurse License Number 61561 §
issued to LAFONDA HODGES GERHART § ORDER

On this day the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of LAFONDA HODGES GERHART, Registered Nurse License Number 604254 and Vocational Nurse License Number 61561, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may be subject to discipline pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived notice and hearing and agreed to the entry of this Order approved by Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director, on February 21, 2018.

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(s).
2. Respondent waived notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order.
3. Respondent's license to practice as a vocational nurse in the State of Texas is in delinquent status. Respondent's license to practice as a professional nurse in the State of Texas is in current status.
4. Respondent received a Certificate in Vocational Nursing from Plainview Vocational School of Nursing, Plainview, Texas, on March 20, 1974, and received an Associate Degree in Nursing from Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas, on May 1, 1994. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on November 28, 1974, and was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on June 15, 1994.

5. Respondent's nursing employment history includes:

Unknown - 08/15	RN	Covenant Health System Lubbock, Texas
11/15 - 10/17	RN	Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Montford Unit Lubbock, Texas
11/17 - Present	Not employed in nursing	

6. On about September 23, 2014, while employed as a Registered Nurse with Covenant Health System, Lubbock, Texas, Respondent engaged in the intemperate and/or unlawful use of Hydrocodone in that she submitted a specimen for a random drug screen which resulted positive for Hydrocodone. Furthermore, Respondent admitted the Hydrocodone was not prescribed for her, and she took it prior to reporting for duty. Possession of Hydrocodone is prohibited by Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code (Controlled Substances Act). The use of 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.

7. Respondent admits to the conduct outlined in Finding of Fact Number Six (6). She explains she took half of a pill of her husband's hydrocodone because she has arthritis in her knees.

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 violation(s) of 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 217.11(1)(A) & (1)(B) and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(1)(A),(1)(B),(4),(5),(10)(A),(10)(D)&(11)(B).

4. The evidence received is sufficient cause pursuant to Section 301.452(b)(9),(10)&(13), Texas Occupations Code, to take disciplinary action against Registered Nurse License Number 604254 and Vocational Nurse License Number 61561, heretofore issued to LAFONDA HODGES GERHART.

5. Pursuant to Section 301.463(d), Texas Occupations Code, this Agreed Order is a settlement agreement under Rule 408, Texas Rules of Evidence, in civil or criminal litigation.

TERMS OF ORDER

I. SANCTION AND APPLICABILITY

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED that RESPONDENT SHALL receive the sanction of **WARNING WITH STIPULATIONS** and Respondent's license(s) shall be placed in **INACTIVE** status.

Should RESPONDENT decide in the future to reactivate his/her license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, RESPONDENT SHALL be required to petition the Board for reactivation of the license and satisfy all then existing requirements for reactivation. Further, RESPONDENT'S reactivated license(s) SHALL BE subject to, at a minimum, the remedial education courses, work restrictions, supervised practice, and employer reporting which would have been requirements of this Order had Respondent not chosen to inactivate his/her nursing license(s).

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RESPONDENT'S CERTIFICATION

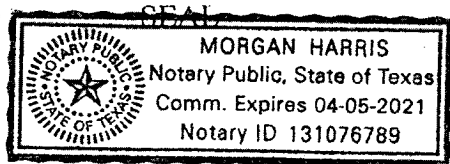
I understand that I have the right to legal counsel prior to signing this Agreed Order. I waive representation by counsel. I have reviewed this Order. I neither admit nor deny the violation(s) alleged herein. By my signature on this Order, I agree to the entry of this Order, and any conditions of said 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 possible revocation of my license(s) to practice nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance. I further understand that, should I decide in the future to reactivate my license(s), I will be required to satisfy, at a minimum, the additional requirements that would have been part of this Order had the license(s) not been placed in inactive status, as stated herein, as well as all then existing requirements for reactivation.

Signed this 5th day of March, 2018.

Lafonda Hodges Gerhart
LAFONDA HODGES GERHART, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 5th day of March, 2018.

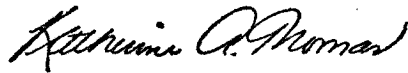
[Signature]



Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Texas Board of Nursing does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 5th day of March, 2018, by LAFONDA HODGES GERHART, Registered Nurse License Number 604254 and Vocational Nurse License Number 61561, and said Order is final.

Effective this 19th day of April, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine A. Thomas".

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