

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

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In the Matter of Registered Nurse License Number 229666           §     AGREED  
and Vocational Nurse License Number 47083                   §  
issued to PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON                           §     ORDER

On this day the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the Board, considered the matter of PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON, Registered Nurse License Number 229666 and Vocational Nurse License Number 47083, hereinafter referred to as Respondent.

Information received by the Board produced evidence that Respondent may have violated Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code. Respondent waived representation by counsel, informal conference, notice and hearing, and agreed to the entry of this Order offered on March 29, 2006, 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. Respondent's license to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas is currently in delinquent status.
4. Respondent was licensed to practice vocational nursing in the State of Texas on October 21, 1970. Respondent received an Associate Degree in nursing from Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas, on August 1, 1973. Respondent was licensed to practice professional nursing in the State of Texas on November 20, 1973.
5. Respondent's complete professional and vocational nursing employment history is unknown.

6. At the time of the incident, Respondent was employed as a Staff Nurse with Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, and had been in this position for two (2) years and five (5) months.
7. On or about June 30, 2004, while employed at Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, Respondent forged an authorization for release of patient information and faxed said form to Cook Children's Hospital, Fort Worth, Texas, using the fax cover sheet of Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital. Respondent fraudulently requested x-ray, history and physical, and lab reports of her partner's son, T.E. Respondent's conduct was likely to deceive Cook Children's Hospital.
8. Respondent admits that using hospital property was a mistake, but denies that her actions placed the patient in any danger. Respondent states that she was informed that her partner's son, T.E., was hospitalized in Oregon, and that attempts to collect information from the son's doctor in Dallas were unsuccessful. A sworn statement received from Teressa J. Luhaorg, mother of T.E., indicates that Respondent had permission and was authorized to retrieve medical records for T.E.

#### 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 of Section 301.452(b)(10), Texas Occupations Code, and 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE §217.12(22).
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 229666 and Vocational Nurse License Number 47083, heretofore issued to PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON, including revocation of Respondent's licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas.

#### ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED and ORDERED, subject to ratification by the Board of Nurse Examiners, 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

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 and 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 PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON to the office of the Board of Nurse Examiners 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. 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, and documentation of care. 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 on the Board's website, [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us) (under BNE events).*

(3) RESPONDENT SHALL, within one (1) year of entry of this Order, successfully complete a course in nursing 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. The course shall be a minimum of six (6) contact hours in length. In order for the course to be approved, the target audience shall include Nurses. The course shall include content on the following: principles of nursing ethics; confidentiality; and professional boundaries. RESPONDENT SHALL CAUSE the sponsoring institution to submit a Verification of Course Completion form, provided by the Board, to verify RESPONDENT's successful completion of the course. This course is to be taken in addition to any continuing education requirements the Board may have for relicensure. *Board approved courses may be found on the Board's website, [www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us) (under BNE events).*

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 and vocational 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. 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 licenses to practice professional and vocational nursing in the State of Texas, as a consequence of my noncompliance.

Signed this 27 day of Feb., 2007.

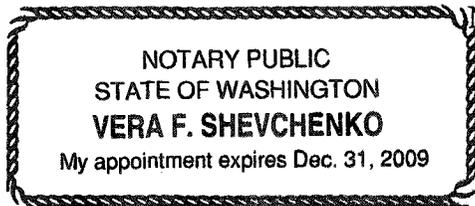
Pam Thornton  
PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON, Respondent

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007.

SEAL

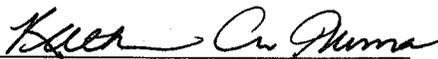
Mark Shevchenko

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington



WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Executive Director, on behalf of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, does hereby ratify and adopt the Agreed Order that was signed on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007, by PAMELA O. JEAN THORNTON, Registered Nurse License Number 229666 and Vocational Nurse License Number 47083, and said Order is final.

Effective this 6th day of March, 2007.

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