

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Libby Craig Date: 5/29/21

DAS Assignment # 4 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Erin Bellinger

License number of the defendant: 647757

Date action was taken against the license: 2/12/2013

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

*Use the space below to describe the events which led to action taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.*

Bellinger was involved in two car accidents on two consecutive days and was issued two citations, then on those same days the nurse was observed falling asleep during a skilled nurse visit, and exhibited slurred speech, confusion, and inability to focus. The nurse was also prescribed narcotic medications by multiple health care providers which impacted her ability to practice safely. The defendant, Erin Bellinger's license was suspended, but then the suspension was stayed and she was able to practice on a three year probation. Stipulations and conditions of her probation were for chemical abuse and psychiatric disorders. The license was revoked when she failed to follow up on all other conditions of her probation and reported that she had been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder that prevented her from being able to perform her nursing duties safely.

*Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient, if harm occurred.*

This incident is one that can only be prevented by the defendant. She took doses of narcotics much higher than what the prescriber ordered and she failed to disclose her history of chemical abuse and psychiatric disorders. These things put all of her patients at risk and her own health at risk as well. The nurse should have never put herself in the position to harm other people and her patients with her inability to control or acknowledge her substance abuse. Had she been honest, there are programs and non-narcotic medications that could have helped her learn to control it and live a better life.

*Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described, in other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.*

As in all criminal or dangerous situations, if another nurse witnessed the defendant showing any signs of chemical abuse or psychiatric disorders, especially while practicing as a nurse, a prudent nurse would be required to report it to either the charge nurse, the TBON, or both. Failure to do so would make the nurse who witnessed it liable for any harm that came to patients due to the defendants inability to practice nursing safely.