

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Julia King

Date:

DAS Assignment # 1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Coshawnasy Jackson

License number of the defendant: RN759052

Date action was taken against the license: 10/31/2016

Type of action taken against the license: Voluntary Surrender

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.

The defendant, Coshawnasy Jackson, was involved in multiple incidents between March of 2015 through November of 2015. In March of 2015, Jackson attempted to obtain 180 tablets of Carisoprodol via fraudulent prescriptions which is prohibited by the Controlled Substances Act in the Texas Health and Safety Code. In April of 2015, Jackson exhibited impaired behavior while at work. She appeared drowsy, was sleeping when she shouldn't have been, and didn't have a sense of urgency in regard to taking care of her patients. Her behaviors were a potential danger to the patients she was assigned to, because she could have overlooked vital information about their conditions. From May to June of 2015, the defendant was cited for failure to correctly/completely document administration of medications (Hydrocodone, Oxycodone, and Ambien), and failure to properly waste Hydrocodone, Ambien, and Percocet, leaving medications unaccounted for. These were both violations of the Controlled Substances Act. There were many more instances of drug diversion, incomplete documentation, and drug misappropriation that the defendant was involved in during this time frame. In July of 2016, the defendant pleaded guilty to fraud poss cs/prescription sch iii/iv (prescription drug fraud). Defendant ultimately voluntarily surrendered her nursing license.

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.

The defendant should have taken care to completely document medications that were administered to her patients. This is crucial because without proper documentation, a patient could inadvertently overdose on a medication. The defendant should have also been more diligent and wasted certain drugs according to policy. Not using the full amount of certain medications requires that they be wasted with a witness to avoid drug diversion. Lastly, if the defendant was impaired in any sort of way, she should not have gone in to work. While calling in to work isn't good habit, it's much worse to be impaired and risk injuring/harming patients.

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.

If a prudent nurse were to find out that the defendant didn't waste narcotics appropriately, the immediate action should be to report the incident to a superior. Whether that be the charge nurse at the moment, or someone higher in the chain of command, depending on the scenario. If the prudent nurse realized that a coworker was under the influence or exhibiting impaired behavior during a work shift, it would be imperative to speak to the charge nurse so that those patients could be seen/taken care of by someone other than the impaired person. Finding out that a fellow nurse wasn't properly documenting, a prudent nurse should also report this to their superior. Documentation is crucial for keeping both patients and caretakers safe.