

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Juan Anthony Hernandez      Date: October 4, 2021

DAS Assignment # \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Vanessa Ann Cordoway

License number of the defendant: RN 833495

Date action was taken against the license: January 26, 2016

Type of action taken against the license: Voluntary Surrender

On or about January 19, 2015, Vanessa Cordoway a Registered Nurse at San Antonio State Hospital violated HIPAA regulations when she accessed a patient's medical record and shared it with said patient over social media in private message to inform the patient of her (Vanessa's) knowing of the patient's admittance to the hospital. It was also identified that Vanessa was in no way caring for the patient as her nurse and accessed the information without the patient's consent and could use the information from the medical record to potentially harm the patient if she wanted to.

During the hearing nurse Vanessa did admit to looking up and private messaging the patient to inform her of her being aware of the patient's hospital visit. Vanessa admits that although she knew the patient was not under her care she assumed that because they work on the same unit that it would be okay to look the patient up and their information. She stated that she had mutual friends so she privately messaged her without thinking. She later realized the mistake she had made by looking up a patient that was not under her care but states she had no intent to harm or hurt the patient by knowing this information.

It was decided by the court of law that the charges would include warning with stipulations and a fine. These stipulations will be applied to any and all future licenses that Vanessa obtains.

Vanessa must also obtain permission before practicing from both the Texas Board of Nursing and the state Board of Nursing that Vanessa is wishing to work in.

While under these stipulations above Vanessa agrees to comply with the Nursing Practice Act, Texas Occupations Code, the rules and regulations pertaining to Nursing Education, License and Practice, 22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE and the order created from the event.

In addition Vanessa will have 1 year to successfully complete all the Board-approved continued education requirements. These courses include a minimum of 6 hour in Texas nursing jurisprudence and ethics. Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills 3.6 contact hour online program provided by the National Council of State Boards in Nursing (NCSBN) learning extension, Patient Privacy 5.4 contact online hours again provided by the (NCSBN). Upon completion Vanessa must get the instructor to provide evidence of completion of the courses necessary. She also must pay \$250 within 45 days of the order entry. Employment requirements include working for one year continuously at one job site, getting 64 hours per month, and must complete the 4 quarterly periods. She must also notify all present and future employers of this order as well as a form that the employer must submit within 10 days of hiring known as the "Notification of Employment form". Vanessa must have an indirect supervision that has been a Registered Nurse (RN) for at least two years and can only work in certain areas as provided in the order. Lastly she must have evaluations of her performance every 3 months for a year stating by her supervisor how she is doing as a practicing nurse. Upon completion of all of these requirements she will then become eligible for nursing licensure of practicing and compact privileges.

No more than a year later Vanessa was working a neurology unit in Austin, Texas where she had sexual relations with a minor and admitted to kissing the minor as well as hanging out with the minor while swimming. This minor being a previous patient of hers, the Texas Board of Nursing identified that the nurse/patient relationship could be confused by the patient and even cause harm to the said patient. After multiple charges of sexual assault with a child, idescency by contact and by exposure. Vanessa voluntarily surrendered her license on January 26, 2016 and is no longer able to identify herself or practice as a registered nurse in any shape or form in the states of Texas or any and all compact states.

The steps that could have been taken to prevent the first violation from occurring would be for Vanessa to have a better understanding of HIPAA and the seriousness of looking up information on a patient that she was not caring for regardless if the patient was on her unit or not. The universal competency that was broken was obtaining consent from the patient to access her/his information. The second and final violation that led to her surrender of her license is completely unacceptable by any profession much less the nursing profession. As a professional nurse she should have better judgement and character to know right from wrong. In this instance the violation goes beyond nursing and is just heinous. She knew her relationship as a nurse and the professionalism we must uphold yet she not only made the mistake of going after her patient but also chose a minor to do so. I for one and glad she is no longer a practicing nurse. This line of work places people in a vulnerable state and when someone violates their rights by looking up information that is not theirs is one thing but, to top it off while completing her one year she violates a person's whole body that is another. It shows her lack of professionalism and she should never be able to obtain and practice nursing again.

If I was the nurse that witnessed the harm Vanessa inflicted on this patient I would immediately report it to the charge nurse and work in the ladder of command. I would also inform Vanessa of her misunderstanding of looking patient's up on our unit and state that not even the patient has

direct access to their own medical record. She may take it to offense but informing her of correct information is what I feel colleagues do to better the future of nursing. It is sad to think that Vanessa truly believed that because the patient was in her unit that she could look up her information and share it via Facebook. It makes me question where her misleading information came from and ensuring that all nursing school programs have the understanding and severity HIPAA violations can cause big or small. In regards to the second violation I am at a loss of words that people are even allowed into this profession. Her acts may have been charged and life may have changed but when I hear this story all I can think about is the traumatic events that took place by the patient and how will the patient recover from a nurse who should have known better by not only her age but also her profession. I hope this patient has the understanding that most choose this profession to heal and not hurt. I pray his trust in nurses can be redeemed after such a life changing event. So sad of a story.