

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Alexandria Perez Date: 12-5-2021

DAS Assignment # 1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Tonya Marie Alexander-Smith

License number of the defendant: 636439

Date action was taken against the license: Aug. 06, 2013

Type of action taken against the license: Suspend/Probate

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, RN nurse, Tonya Smith had a drinking problem that didn't stop while she was on the job doing bedside nursing. There were three different occasions during three different employments where she tested positive for alcohol during a drug/alcohol screen at work. (1) On March 13, 2011 while employed as an RN with St. David's North Austin Medical Center, Austin, Tx, she engaged in intemperate use of alcohol. (2) January 26, 2012, while employed as a RN with Seton Medical Center Williamson, Round Rock, Tx, while visibly looking intoxicated she admitted to consuming alcohol right before a work meeting regarding patient care. (3) On September 10, 2012, employed as an RN with Seton Medical Center in Round Rock, she engaged in intemperate use of alcohol.

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. Consider which universal competencies were violated.

No harm to a patient was cited in the legal documents, but "being under the influence of alcohol could have affected her ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms or changes in patients' conditions, and could had affected her ability to make rational, accurate, and appropriate assessments, judgments, and decisions regarding patient care, thereby placing the patient in potential danger." I believe the correct measures were taken in her situation to stop the potentially dangerous care she could had given her patients. I do feel as though her first and even her second job of employments should had done something sooner than waiting until the third strike to have something done. That is too many patients in-between where something could had went wrong.

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 I would had witnessed her visibly intoxicated on the job I would tell the charge nurse or nurse manager immediately. I would hope they would send her home immediately and check the well-being of her patients especially if she was working ICU like I believe she was.