

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Anne Ghandour

Date: 08/30/22

DAS Assignment # 1 (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Gina Cavender Andrews License number of the defendant: 702697

Date action was taken against the license: 07/27/18

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.

Gina Cavender Andrews, a Home Health nurse in Galveston, Texas, voluntarily surrendered her license based on two charges. Andrews was convicted of her first charge for having an inappropriate relationship with a patient (JM) for about a year from on or about September 9, 2016- November 2, 2017. She admitted to visiting this patient outside of business hours, continuing communication over the phone and through social media, and “engaged in an inappropriate relationship” with the patient. She would stay the night, and even moved in with JM.

The second charge placed on Andrews was due to incomplete documentation. This inaccurate medical record affected seven different patients which could have potentially harmed them due to unknown care decisions.

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.

Andrews violated multiple universal competencies during this time frame. The first one she broke is safety and security for both charges. By having that relationship with JM, she clouded her nursing judgment which could have hurt him both physically and emotionally. By not completing the documentation, Andrews broke that safety and security as well. It’s well

known that if you don't document something, it never happened. So even if Andrews had sound judgment, there is no way to know that for sure since it is her word against the medical record.

The next universal competency that Andrews broke is documentation. A nurse is supposed to document everything that is done, and she did not do that.

Lastly, Andrews broke her professional role as a nurse. There are supposed to be clear boundaries in a patient- nurse relationship. By engaging in an inappropriate relationship with JM, those boundaries were broken. This is not only wrong of her, but JM's care was no longer unbiased. At that point, it must have been difficult for her to differentiate between what care she needed to give, and the care she wanted to give JM since she had that personal relationship.

Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first 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.

A prudent nurse would maintain her professional role and make sure that she has completed all duties placed on her in her profession. If I were in Andrew's position I would have made sure to keep clear boundaries. If I found myself wanting to maintain a personal relationship with a patient, I would have backed up as soon as I noticed it. I would explain to the higher ups what was happening. I would also ask for a new assignment as it would be in both mine and the patient's interest and safety to no longer care for said patient. I would also make sure that everything was documented and saved just in case anyone needed to refer back to the chart.

If I were to witness another nurse experience the same thing, I would intervene. I would first talk to the nurse. I would remind them of what their role as a nurse is and try to talk to them about doing the right thing. Not only would I do that, but I would also report them to ensure that they are in fact doing the right thing.