

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Cheyanne Roberson
_____ (1-4)

Date: 11/11/2022

DAS Assignment # 3

Name of the defendant: Carol Kirkland

License number of the defendant: 648212

Date action was taken against the license: 07/22/2013

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 nurse above was subject to urine testing that came back positive for alcohol multiple times while she was nursing at Good Shepherd Medical Center. As a major violation was put into place, it seems investigations took place to give the nurse the opportunity to gather counsel and fight for the license. Mrs. Kirkland chose to decline all representation by counsel, informal proceedings, and notice of hearing. She came to the conclusion herself to forfeit her 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. Consider which universal competencies were violated.

To start an absolute breach of safety and security is seen in this report. The patients of this nurse did not have someone that was capable at the time to provide for their needs. Coming to work impaired places the lives of every single patient and co-worker at risk. Medications and critical information regarding patients could have been misread or incorrectly given due to the state of that nurse. Communication becomes difficult with alcohol and slows the reaction time. Choosing to work in that condition clearly says a lot of the stress and mental capability of this nurse. She could not properly and confidently do assessments or be in a professional role when being under the influence of alcohol. A certain level of care is required for patients, I don't believe it's possible to provide that care when having alcohol in the system. Bringing me to the understanding of why she surrendered her license. Mental health is absolutely important and if you feel, as though you can't come to work sober then a step back is required. Self care needed to come into play and this nurse needs to get help so that she can not only take care of herself but maybe others as well.

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 were the nurse to smell the alcohol on her breath I would immediately report it and ensure the nurse was taken off the floor and away from patients. To have access to very dangerous medications and records put all patients and coworkers at risk. I would report to my superiors and then make sure all of this nurses patients were cared for. I would advocate for that nurse to receive help and remind her of why we get into this profession. The ultimate goal is to help others who cannot help themselves. When we get to that excruciating point of needing alcohol to feel better after a shift, a nurse needs to take a step back and get the help needed. Again finding to time to provide self care is extremely important. Patients need to come first every moment you step into that hospital, if for some reason you can not provide that standard of care speaking to your supervisors to gain help is vital to your career.