

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Rory Foutz

Date: 1/25/2023

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Austin, Virginia K.

License number of the defendant: 648218

Date action was taken against the license: 2/13/2018

Type of action taken against the license: Warning with Stipulations

Use the space below to describe the events which led to the action(s) 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.

Mrs. Austin is RN First Assist, in June of 2017 Mrs. Austin while undraping a patient post-surgery and preparing patient for transport accidentally cut the patient on the outer thigh. Mrs Austin proceeded to clean the superficial wound, apply Dermabond and requested the circulator to enter a note in the operation record. Mrs. Austin never informed the surgeon, who was not present, of the laceration.

*I am unclear if the infraction involves only Mrs. Austin's failure to report the incident to the surgeon, or also applying Dermabond, as I am unaware if this exceeds her scope of practice.

Mrs. Austin was required to adhere to the following stipulations:

1. Finish online course "Understanding Board Orders".
2. Finish a 6-hour course "Nursing Jurisprudence and Ethics".
3. Finish a 3.6-hour course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills"
4. Work as a registered nurse for at least 64-hours per month for 4-quarters and during that time
 - a. Disclose to present and future employers of the Oder and Stipulations
 - b. Ensure each employer fill out a "Notification of Employment" form
 - c. Ensure every employer disclose to the Board any violation, variation, discrepancy or occurrence.
 - d. Ensure employers submit a performance evaluation.

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.

Mrs. Austin likely only needed to report the incident to avoid action being taken against her license, or possibly following procedure and not applying the Dermabond if that was also a violation. Mrs. Austin testified that she

did intend to inform the surgeon and her request to the circulator to document the incident does show good faith and that she had no intention of concealing the incident.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Professional Role – in that Mrs. Austin did not follow hospital policy or professional standards

Human caring and relationship – in that Mrs. Austin's failure to report the incident showed a lack of care and concern for patient wellbeing.

Critical thinking – in that Mrs. Austin's failure to report was likely a result of critical thinking and organizational skills needed so as not to omit needed actions.

Physical Safety and Security – in that Mrs. Austin's failure to report the incident to the Surgeon, denied Surgeon the opportunity to evaluate and protect patient safety.

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.

I am the first person to acknowledge that people are not perfect and we all make mistakes. Based on the wording of the order I believe that Mrs. Austin's failure to report the incident to the physician was an honest mistake and I if I was aware that she had failed to talk with the physician, I simply have reminded her to do so.