

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Nicholas Castilleja

Date: 02/10/2023

DAS Assignment # \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Susan Dawson Ferguson

License number of the defendant: RN 789084

Date action was taken against the license:06/09/2020.

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

**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.**

The nurse failed to appear for the hearing to discuss her case. She also failed to notify the physician when the patient had significant changes in condition. Her failure deprived the physician of an opportunity to stabilize the patient's condition. She also failed to assess vital signs when the patient was found on the floor, after multiple falls. She checked for injuries, provided incontinence care, and proceeded to get a pillow and blanket so she could leave the patient to sleep on the floor. The patient was found later unresponsive and in respiratory distress. The nurse also proceeded to perform CPR for two minutes on the patient, neglecting the patient's signed DNR order. This action went against the patient's wishes for medical care.

**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.**

The nurse should have notified the physician regarding the patient's change in condition. The patient appeared agitated, confused, disoriented, disrobing, yelled for help, and kept falling. All these signs warrant immediate further assessment and notification to help stabilize the patient and prevent the condition from worsening. She also should have checked vitals and placed the patient back into bed, instead of leaving them on the ground. Lastly, the nurse should not have performed CPR when she was aware of the patient's DNR. Despite the patient's condition, as a medical professional, we must always respect the wishes of the patient.

**Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.**

The nurse violated the safety and security competency by not ensuring the fall bundle was implemented and monitored closely. She also did not exercise critical thinking in prioritizing the patient's condition and notifying the physician. She did not reassess vital signs while the patient was found unconscious. But she made the time to ensure the patient did not hurt themselves and performed incontinence care. With the documentation

competency, if she had input the vital signs in, she did not report the abnormal findings to the physician. She did not provide human caring nor perform in a professional role by leaving the patient on the floor and then by violating the patient's DNR.

*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 would have notified the physician and charge nurse regarding the patient's condition, to ensure that the patient received the treatment that they required. I would have also ensured they were notified regarding any documentation that was not input into the system. I also would make sure that the patient is monitored closely and all fall risk precautions are implemented, especially with the patient already falling multiple times. This would help decrease the risk of the patient leaving the bed and ending up on the floor to be found in respiratory distress.