

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: **Sal Rahioui** Date: **3/23/2023** DAS Assignment # **1** (1-4)

Name of the defendant: **Christine D. Ahrens**

License number of the defendant: **245304**

Date action was taken against the license: **2/12/2013**

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.*

**The Nurse that I'm researching was charged with Violation 22 Texas 217.11 which refers to Standards of Nursing Practice. At the time Christine was employed as the Charge Nurse at Austin's Women's Hospital, specially working in the L&D Department. She had a patient that was pregnant with twins and had fetal heart monitoring strips placed on her, at the time there was minimal to no variability on the monitors which I believe means that it isn't picking up the baby's heartbeat. Christine failed to let the Physician know about the situation which they later learned it was being cause by an anterior placenta abruption, which lead to the twins unfortunately passing away during birth.**

*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.*

**For starters, she should've contacted the Physician to share her findings. The Nurse claims that the patient was already scheduled to have a C-Section because there was minimal reactivity on the fetal monitor, which makes me question whether this nurse was thrown under the bus by the hospital. If the patient really was scheduled, that would mean the physician would already know about the minimal variability issue that was going on. However, on the other hand they claimed that the twins were having fetal heart decelerations and that was another thing she failed to report. She also shouldn't assume that there couldn't be an emergency because no one had told her about one, but instead always look out for things that could turn a normal situation into an emergency.**

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

**Critical Thinking: The nurse failed to intervene and make the critical decision informing the attending physician about the situation**

**Standard Precaution: The issues that the nurse found are supposed to be reported and therefore leading to some kind of medical intervention to help solve the problem.**

*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'm not 100% sure if the question is asking what I would do if I assessed the patient and found the same issues the nurse found, or whether it meant what I would do if I had discovered the patient already harmed which would be after she had already given birth to the twins.**

**If this was my patient, I would reassess and make sure the monitors are placed properly and not defective. I would then ask the patient how they were feeling while I contacted the physician to find out what my next step would be. While I'm waiting for the physician, I would check the patient's vital signs to make sure that they were still stable and to help determine if the issue was with the patient or the fetuses.**

**If I had discovered the patient was harmed and it was due to negligence, I would report it. Based off what I've learned so far there is little to no margin for error in the nursing world and medicine in general. The nurse could use this as a learning experience and get the right training to ensure she doesn't find herself in this situation again. If this went unreported there is no telling how many times this same medical error could occur during the rest of her career.**