

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Davy Gomez **Date:** 4/7/23 **DAS Assignment #3**

Name of the defendant: Debra J. Carrigan
License number of the defendant: 715844

Date action was taken against the license: 9/15/11
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.

Carrigan violated patient privacy when she accessed several patient electrical charts without authorization. In addition, multiple files with patient information were found in her possession while leaving the facility. Carrigan stated she was answering a call light and left her computer unlocked when the electrical charts were opened.

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.

Carrigan could have avoided the incident by signing out of the computer to answer the call light. Most hospitals use windows computers and you can simply press the windows key and "L" key simultaneously to lock the computer. That action takes as little as two seconds. Carrigan also needed to shred any nurse's notes or index created for her patients prior to leaving the unit.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

The universal competencies violated were safety/security, professional role, and documentation. Carrigan did not promote patient confidentiality and trust by failing to log off when she left the computer and when she almost went home with confidential information in her possession. In doing so, she did not maintain a profession role as a nurse. The article did not say whether another nurse accessed her computer to look through their own patient's information or to chart. However, by leaving the workstation while still logged on increases the risk of documentation errors.

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 discovered the nurse leaving the unit with patient confidential information; I would have let Carrigan know she had confidential patient information that needs to be shredded before leaving. The article did not state whether the patient information was simply a "Nurse's brain/Index" sheet or physical pages from their chart. However, all health information about any patient that has been already scanned into their electrical chart or is no longer needed has to be placed in the unit's designated shred bin. You legally cannot take that confidential information home. You also are not allowed to open any electrical chart without proper authorization. That also includes your own chart. If I noticed Carrigan stepping away from her computer to enter a patient's room without signing out, I would remind her of the potential harm that could happen if someone else used that same computer to chart while she was still signed in. Even though she's not physically accessing those charts, her E-signature is; so she will take the fall. The article mentioned Carrigan stating that she now logs off of her workstation every time she leaves it and for the sake of her patients, I hope that is true.

