

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Zachary Wiggins

Date: 4-14-2023

DAS Assignment # ____4____ (1-4)

Name of the defendant: Ellen Margaret Forcum

License number of the defendant: 678866

Date action was taken against the license: July 18, 2011

Type of action taken against the license: Voluntary Surrender with conditional reinstatement.

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 case against this nurse is a case of chemical dependency. This nurse willingly came into work while under the influence of a drug and is being punished because that could cause potential harm to many patients.

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.

Any action that I would have taken would have been to send the nurse home and not allow the nurse to help other patients. If the nurse is not able to have the potential to harm a patient, then the nurse may have been able to come back to work the next day. Although, arriving to work under the influence should always equal disciplinary action. Any other measures I would have implemented would have been some regular remedial advice about not working under the influence.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

The violated universal competencies were the emotional safety and security of the patient, critical thinking, and the professional role. Human caring can also be added as well if you care about how you may have mistreated them while under the influence. Safety and security were violated by allowing yourself to show yourself to the patient while under the influence with the intent to care for them. Critical thinking was violated by showing up to work in the first place instead of staying away from the patients. The professional role was violated by allowing patients to see a nurse work while under the influence and it sets a bad example for other nurses to have to deal with.

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 had discovered this, I would have informed the charge nurse and allowed them to make the decision. It is not my responsibility to dole out punishments and if the charge nurse was unavailable, I would have gone up the chain of command until I am able to talk to someone that will adequately deal with this situation.