

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Lindsey McCormack
4 _____ (1-4)

Date: 09/15/2023

DAS Assignment #

Name of the defendant: Susan Dawn Ferguson
789084

License number of the defendant:

Date action was taken against the license: June 9th, 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.

Charge 1: Abandonment

While employed as a Registered Nurse at Senior Care of Western Hills, Temple, Texas, The RN did not notify the physician when her patient had a major change in condition. This patient was showing signs of agitation, confusion, disorientation, and had multiple falls.

Charge 2: Abandonment

The RN did not assess vital signs on her patient who was found on the floor at 0100 and continued to leave the patient on the floor with a pillow and blanket. At 0240 other staff members found this patient unresponsive and in respiratory distress.

Charge 3: Assault

The RN performed CPR on the patient who had a Do Not Resuscitate order.

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.

If the RN had notified the primary physician about her patient who had a significant change in condition, medical interventions could have been used to stabilize the patient. The nurse could have placed the patient back onto the bed instead of keeping the patient on the floor. She could have assessed the vital signs to have a better understanding of what was going on and could have prevented the patient from becoming unresponsive and in respiratory distress. If the RN had been aware that the patient had a DNR order, this could have prevented any deprivation of the patient.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Safety and Security (Emotional): The nurse did not provide trust with her patient by not acknowledging the patient's critical changes in condition, and instead leaving the patient on the floor. The RN performed CPR on her patient who was a DNR which goes against the patient's medical decision.

Communication: The RN did not communicate with the healthcare provider about the significant changes in her patient.

Critical Thinking: The RN did not provide critical thinking skills by not assessing the vital signs of the patient who was in respiratory distress, and ultimately became unconscious. RN did not provide any medical interventions to prevent further damage to the patient.

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 immediately got the patient back into bed, performed the necessary assessments needed for the patient's condition, and provided any medical interventions that were significant to the situation. I would have contacted the primary physician in charge of this patient to alert them of the condition of the patient. I would then go directly to my charge nurse and inform them of my findings and express my concern that the nurse in charge of this patient has violated many rules and is abandoning their patients. Then, I would professionally confront the nurse in charge of the patient and alert them of the findings, and situation that has been going on.