

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Crystal Pena

Date: 01/18/2024

DAS Assignment # 1 _____

Name of the defendant: Kristina Lea Cimini

License number of the defendant: 788582

Date action was taken against the license: August 21, 2018

Type of action taken against the license: 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.*

In May of 2017, Kristina Lea Cimini was working as a Registered Nurse at the Reeves County Hospital located in Pecos Texas and arrived to work one day unable to do her job diligently. She exhibited behavior that was not normal while she was on duty. The evidence presented against her indicated she had "slurred speech, drowsiness, vomiting and sporadic periods of crying/laughing." (Charge I) Following her drug screen results, she was tested positive for benzodiazepines and oxycodone. She was charged a second time for unlawful possession of oxycodone and benzodiazepines. She was then given the opportunity to possibly keep her license but failed to appear before the court or comply with the Texas Board of Nursing requirements.

- *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.*

I strongly believe that the nurse should have complied with TBON and responded to them in a timely manner to show her willingness to comply and redeem herself, she may have been able to retain her license.

- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*

The nurse was practicing under the influence of drugs. This violates Safety as her own cognitive functions would inhibit her ability to perform a simple professional interaction with the patient because she couldn't even speak correctly—her speech was slurred. Standard precaution was breeched as her level of awareness for her surroundings was limited as she was drowsy, I don't think she would have had the ability to maintain respect for asepsis in a simple skilled dressing change. Communication was breeched as she evidently presented with slurred speech and sporadic periods of crying and laughing. The Critical thinking skill is most concerning as she

was not able to even make sound mind decisions—could not control her laughter or crying and once again, her speech. Documentation was breeched in her case as she was not able to function or pay attention to any findings, she probably missed in the drowsy state she was in. Human caring was breached as well as she didn't care about the patient/s. She knew she would be working with patients, however made a choice to consume said drugs and therefore, did not consider that a patient could die because of her inability to perform her job under the influence. Professional Role was also breeched because as a nurse her appearance was incompetent, her interactions were concerning to all and she was very unprepared for work as she could not even maintain composure or speak.

- *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.*

First and foremost, I would alert the charge nurse on duty about what is happening with the patient and how they were harmed, take care of them first and remove the nurse from the floor or wherever she is assigned to. If I noticed she was slurring her speech or that she was behaving in a manner like the above nurse, I would still alert the charge nurse and again remove her from her post at once.