

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Peter Guajardo

Date: 3/22/24

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Rolston Spence

License number of the defendant: 887941

Date action was taken against the license: 13TH DAY OF September, 2022

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.

o On October 22, 2020, Rolston Spence applied for licensure by the board as a Registered Nurse in the state of North Dakota. Spence, at the time, held a Texas multistate Registered Nurse license. He was granted a temporary permit to practice in the state of North Dakota, which expired on February 14, 2021. Although his temporary license expired, Spence continued to practice as a Registered Nurse in North Dakota under the Nurse Licensure Compact.

o On June 4th, 2021, Rolston Spence's nursing judgment ultimately led to his license being revoked. Spence was the admitting inpatient nurse for a patient who needed continuous oxygen saturation monitoring. This was included in the patient's admission orders, which Spence acknowledged at the beginning of his shift, yet failed to contact Respiratory Therapy (RT) to inform them that the continuous oxygen saturation had not been initiated. Spence was the patient's primary nurse on the night shifts of June 5th and 6th, and still had not contacted

Respiratory Therapy. He reported to the Board staff that he did not believe that the orders were discontinued, even after checking the orders at the beginning of all three shifts. On October 28, 2021, the North Dakota Board of Nursing denied the application for Spence's license for the state, and on September 13, 2022, his license was revoked in the state of Texas.

· *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.*

o Rolston Spence could have prevented getting his license revoked and harm to the patient if he had followed the physician's orders. Physician's orders give the best care for each individual patient. Not following such an important order such as applying a continuous oxygen saturation monitor could increase the patient's health complications, decrease the quality of life, or even cause an early death. While it is unclear what the patient was admitted for; the patient could have been in respiratory distress and The Respiratory Therapist was not aware of the order. Oxygenation is extremely important to all patients and is included in vital signs, so why Spence ignored applying a continuous oxygen saturation monitor order for three whole shifts shows how careless he was as a nurse.

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

o *Rolston Spence ignored **one** physician order, and this violated several universal competencies.*

o **Safety and Security:** Spence did not promote trust and respect to the patient because he knew about the order, but failed to do anything about it. The patient is in a vulnerable state in their health, trusting the nurse to provide quality care, which Spence did not do so.

o **Communication:** Spence did not utilize resources to enable communication consistent with agency protocols by choosing to not call the Respiratory therapy team.

o **Critical Thinking:** Spence did not prioritize the admission order, and actively made the decision not to administer the continuous oxygen saturation monitor.

o **Human Caring:** While Spence had involvement in his patient's care, ignoring the order proves his involvement had a negative impact.

· 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.

o Assuming I were the nurse to discover that the order was ignored for multiple days, I would alert the Charge Nurse, Respiratory therapist, and the patient's physician. Not only that but I would also give a focused respiratory assessment to the patient to see if any damage has occurred. Assuming the patient's health was not impacted, the next time I saw Rolston Spence, I would professionally ask him why the orders had been ignored. I would then explain how the patient's safety should always come first. As for taking the matter to a higher authority, I would follow what the charge nurse or physician suggests I do.