

Covenant School of Nursing

Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

Instructional Module 2

Student Name: **Peter Guajardo**

Date: **4/1/24**

DAS Assignment # **2**

Name of the defendant: **Carol Michelle Korensky**

License number of the defendant: **866211**

Date action was taken against the license: **9/24/21**

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 Carol Michelle Korensky had multistate licensure privilege, to which she used to practice in the state of Arizona. On February 24, 2021, Korensky reported to work at Yuma Regional Medical Center in Yuma, Arizona, displaying signs and symptoms of impairment. This included an unsteady gait, falling asleep at the nursing station, appearing disoriented, and having red glossy looking eyes. She was removed from providing patient care and asked to submit a for-case urine drug test. The test came back positive for alcohol/ethanol at a level of 0.283 gm/dl which is over three times the state's legal blood-alcohol limit. Being under the influence of alcohol while on duty of being a registered nurse could have not only put the nurse in danger, but the patients as well. Korensky's ability to recognize subtle signs, symptoms, or changes in patients' conditions, or could have hindered her ability to make appropriate judgements, assessments, and decisions regarding the patients' well-being.
- *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 Carol Korensky could have simply called in. As stated above, working under the influence puts everyone in a situation they do not want to be in. Patients' trust health care providers when they are most vulnerable in their health. It was irresponsible for her to come in given the state she was in. A late, honest call in would have benefited everyone more, and Korensky could possibly still have her nursing license.
- o Another possibility could have been to not drink, knowing she had to work her shift the next day. While we don't know why Korensky got so intoxicated, I am going to say it was a coping mechanism for her. Substance use disorder in the medical profession could be due to the demand of 12-hour shifts, high-stress situations, and emotional exhaustion. That's not including what could be happening in her personal life, who knows, maybe she could have had a wild night out.
- *Identify ALL universal competencies were violated and explain how.*
 - o **Safety and Security:** Korensky did not promote trust and respect by showing up to her shift intoxicated. How can someone in their position supposed to trust a nurse with their health, when their nurse cannot promote her own health. It is unprofessional, and there is no respect shown to any patient if the nurse is under the influence.
 - o **Communication:** The nurse cannot properly educate the patient under the influence. Alcohol can alter the way a person thinks and speaks, which is unfair to the patient.
 - o **Critical Thinking:** Alcohol can alter the way someone's decision making, prioritization, and assessment related to patient symptoms. Giving the wrong dose to a patient could be life or death, or worsen a patient's health. What happens if a patient were to code but the nurse is not in the right head space to assist with the situation? There is no telling what could happen during a 12 hour shift, the nurse needs to be alert and orientated enough to be prepared for anything and everything.
 - o **Professional Role:** Korensky's signs and symptoms of impairment included an unsteady gait, falling asleep at the nursing station, appearing disoriented, and having red glossy looking eyes. That is unprofessional to not only the patient, but to her peers as well. One cannot manage equipment, supplies, and human resources efficiently and economically while being under the influence. It is unfair to everyone in this situation, as nurses are expected to be as professional as possible.

- *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 Personally, I would have pull Korensky to the side and ask if she was okay mentally. She was intoxicated over 3.5 times over Arizona's legal alcohol-blood levels, to me, that doesn't seem like a wild night out, but as a coping mechanism. It was clear that she was showing signs of impairment, so I would ask if she were drinking before her shift and encourage her to speak with the charge nurse about her actions. I would also encourage her to seek help. I have seen how people struggled with alcoholism throughout my life and would tell her how it affected me. There needed to be legal action held against her, even if she was struggling with something personal. It is not a safe environment for her peers and the patients. It is her first offense, and personally I am a strong believer in second chance's, however, I agree with her license being revoked. She put everyone in a dangerous position by coming into her shift under the influence.