

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Sarah Blount

Date: 08/19/2024

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Susan Ferguson, RN  
defendant: 789084

License number of the

Date action was taken against the license: 10/2020

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.*

Nurse Sally Ferguson had multiple infractions where she neglected the overall care of her patients, leading to her license being revoked. Her negligent acts included: failing to inform a physician when a patient experienced change in their condition, leaving a patient on the floor following a fall after providing only incontinence care leading to that patient to become unresponsive and performing cardiac resuscitation on a patient who had a known DNR. The incidents led to serious and unnecessary additional discomfort to the patients and their families.

Failing to inform a physician on a patient's changing condition can and did result in greater harm to the patient. Nurses are there to help monitor and maintain the health of the patients they have. Failing to do so in this instance resulted in the delayed treatment and stabilization of the patient.

Nurse Ferguson left a patient on the floor after doing the minimum to ensure their well being. After walking in and finding said patient, she neglected to check vitals and O2 Sat, she instead assessed for any physical injuries, provided incontinence care and left the patient on the ground with a pillow and blanket. The patient was later found unresponsive. Nurse Ferguson's actions resulted in serious harm to her patient, this act of negligence could have easily led to the death of said patient.

Nurse Ferguson also performed CPR on a patient who had signed a Do Not Resuscitate form. According to her charges she was aware of the form however proceeded to perform resuscitation on the patient for two minutes. This was a direct negligence for the patient's wishes and a violation of patient rights. This act not only was unnecessarily harmful to the patient but could have also been harmful for any family who witnessed it.

In conclusion, Nurse Ferguson committed multiple accounts of negligence delaying protocol and resulting in the harm of patients she was meant to protect.

*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.*

In the case of failing to inform the physician, Nurse Ferguson failed to recognize or ignore obvious signs of a change in condition including the patient being agitated, confused, disoriented, and yelling for help. These incidences clearly indicated a change in cognitive function and should have been addressed as soon as they were identified. Later she then neglected to aid a patient who was found on the floor. TGis incident led to the rapid decline in the patient's health. Both acts fall under negligence and failure to respond appropriately to a patient's condition. Nurse Ferguson was aware of her patient's conditions yet failed to take the necessary actions. A charge nurse and or physician should have been informed in both cases, along with completing the necessary assessments such as a cognitive and respiratory along with overall vital signs.

Respecting patients' rights also falls under the required nursing actions. Being aware of a patient's DNR and continuing to perform life saving actions deliberately violates the patient's wishes. The RN should have instead honored the DNR and began the necessary protocol in dealing with a patient's passing, including notifying the charge nurse.

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

The competencies that were violated include: Safety and security, communication, critical thinking, and human caring.

**Safety and security** was violated when the RN knew of the patient's history yet failed to recognize and document the declining health. It was further violated when Nurse Ferguson left a patient on the floor following a fall.

**Communication** was violated when the RN failed to report patients status to the physician and charge nurse.

**Critical Thinking** was violated when the RN failed to recognize and enforce the correct patient assessments and care with the patient in charge I declining status and again when finding patient from charge II on the floor. The RN should have ensured the patient's safety and performed vital assessments to figure out what was going on with the patient.

**Human caring** was violated by ignoring a patient's wishes for a DNR and performing resuscitation. It was further violated by neglecting overall patient care and failing to promote their well being.

*Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first 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 was the first person to discover the events from Charge I or II I would first ensure the patients safety by making sure they are comfortable and cared for. I would then get recent vital signs and perform appropriate focused assessments for each patient's scenario. Following these actions I would alert the patient's physician on their status to get further instruction on the next steps in the patient's care plan. In the incident of CPR I would be well informed on my patients chart to know that they did not want life resuscitation measures to be taken. After identifying my patient had passed I would alert the charge nurse and begin the proper protocol to handle the situation.