

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Cayce Britton      Date: 08/30/24      DAS Assignment #   2  

Name of the defendant: Sally Esther Harshaw      License number of the defendant: 936564

Date action was taken against the license: February 6, 2019

Type of action taken against the license: Remedial Education with Fine

- *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.*

Sally Esther Harshaw was employed at Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas at the time of this occurrence. Sally had been employed with this hospital in her current position for seven months. It is noted that Sally had a HIPAA violation on or about August 26, 2018. Sally stated that in her position with the hospital, the nurses have to look at what patients are waiting and what rooms are available for patients to go to. At the time that patient whose HIPPA rights were violated was in the hospital, Sally stated that she did not disclose to her other coworkers that she possibly knew the patient.

Sally is said to have exposed the patient by giving out private medical information without the patients consent. The patient did not consent in any way for Sally to share any of their information with others outside of the hospital. This put the patient at risk for unnecessary harm and therefore was a violation of HIPPA. Sally continued to deny the allegations and stated that at no point did she ever share any information of the patient with anyone and did not violate HIPPA.

- *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 believe that the actions taken against the license could've been avoid had Sally informed the charge nurse or a supervisor that she may have known the patient. Also, if Sally had not shared any information of the patient with anyone especially a member of the public, then she would not have violated HIPPA.

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

Safety and Security (emotionally) – This was violated due to the nurse sharing private information about the patient

Communication/Critical Thinking/Professional Role- These 3 were all violated due to the nurse failing to inform any higher management that she may have been acquainted with the patient. Also, by not making proper decisions and not putting the patient's needs first.

Human Caring- This was violated by the nurse having no regards to the patient when she shared private information to others outside of the hospital.

- *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.*

If it were me and I was the one who found out about the HIPPA violation first, I would immediately report it to the appropriate people. I would then check on the patient and be very empathetic and show support. I would also react based off of how the patient was feeling at the time and take care of their needs.