

# Covenant School of Nursing

## Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment

### Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Leah Gonzales

Date:

DAS Assignment # \_\_1\_\_

Name of the defendant: Danielle Lisa Alston

License number of the defendant: 838497

Date(s) and BON decision(s) taken against the license: 4/23/2020, 5/10/2022, REVOKED

Type of action(s) imposed to retain or regain licensure, if applicable (ex.: warning with stipulations, etc.)

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 each of them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, etc.*
  - o In this case Danielle Alston had many occurrences that led to her license being revoked. Although nurses do make mistakes, I believe these made by Danielle could have been preventable the actions included Danielle allegedly failing to verify breastmilk before dispensing it for a neonatal patient in the NICU, without having a second nurse to verify.
  - o She then falsely documented care that was not provided. Danielle falsely documented that she changed a diaper and took vital signs during her shift which did not happen.
  - o Danielle then pre-documented a record with inaccurate information. This included the pre-documenting of feeding for another patient and entered the wrong information in the MR. Danielle knew she had made some errors but that she met care of her patients. She then stated that she was having trouble with some bullying and harassment at her hospital and the supervisors were looking for a reason to fire her. These occurrences led to BON deciding to issue Danielle a warning with stipulations. This happened on March 31, 2016, then in April of 2021 Danielle was charged with two more charges. On April 23, 2021, Danielle failed to complete a Board-approved course, as part of her remedial education courses. The second charge following this one in April was respondent failed to complete the course "Sharpening Critical Thinking Skills" within one year. The remedial education courses following the incidents that happened in March of 2016 were assigned to Danielle in April of 2020 so in April of 2021 she failed to complete both courses assigned to her.
  
- *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 *No harm occurred to the neonatal baby, but Danielle's actions could have been preventable. Danielle did not verify giving breastmilk to a neonatal patient before giving it to the patient. Throughout a nursing career you are required to verify any type of medication administration*

given. There are multiple checks you are required to do apart of administering or dispensing anything given to a patient. Especially a neonatal for their immune systems are much more compromised than the average healthy adult. As far as falsely documenting care that was not given is lazy nursing. Changing a diaper and vital signs on a neonatal patient is easy patient care and could have been easily done in ten minutes then documented resulting in any action being taken against her license. In nursing school, you are taught to never pre-document any care given to a patient, so Danielle was aware but proceeded to anyways. Those charges resulted in warning with stipulations. The revocation of her license was because of failing to complete the remediation courses within the year they were assigned. That could have been avoided given the fact that she was given a year to complete and she could still continue practicing nursing.

- Identify ALL universal competencies (4-5) that were violated and explain how in detail to reflect your understanding and importance of the universal competencies.
  - o **SAFETY AND SECURITY** was not met because Danielle mistakenly dispensed the wrong breast milk to the wrong neonatal patient without verifying if it was the correct milk. Danielle also violated this competency by falsifying documentation. It is important that nurses remain as thorough as possible. A secure environment helps prevent malpractice and violations of the patient's rights. Most importantly, it is about the patient's safety; the foundation is about the quality of patient care provided. The neonatal baby could have easily been infected if that breast milk was contaminated. Although the patient was not harmed, safety and security was not met in this situation.
  - o **DOCUMENTATION** was not met when Danielle documented care that was not given on her shift. She also pre-documented a record with incorrect information. This is a serious liability involving disciplinary actions. Danielle was required to complete education from these charges but since she did not complete within the year the education was assigned to her, this led to revoking her license. Not to mention the toll this takes on her professional reputation, Danielles trustworthiness is now compromised. Making it difficult to find any future employment in healthcare.
  - o **CRITICAL THINKING** was violated when Danielle entered the incorrect information in the medical record, she failed to double check and make sure the correct information was entered. Danielle should have taken the time to ensure the accuracy of documentation. Without thinking of the consequences that would have taken place Danielle made a mistake that was preventable if she had taken a few minutes to ensure proper information.
  - o **PROFESSIONAL ROLE** was violated when Danielle did not follow any Agency protocols. She did not ensure consistency and safety. She made errors and put patients at risk. These agency protocols are important because they deliver ethical care that all healthcare staff should carry out. By maintaining a professional role in nursing, it keeps the integrity of healthcare. It also protects patients, which is the most important role in nursing.
  
- Use the space below to describe what actions 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 A prudent nurse would exercise good and wise decisions in their practice. Especially when it comes to making decisions that affect the patients' care. Being the first person to discover the

events that happened I believe that the nurse's action would be to ensure the patients' safety by taking over the patient's care. Following Facility Policy is another action any nurse would take such as notifying the charge nurse or nursing manager immediately after finding any criminal activity or harm to the patient. Following the findings the nurse should also be sure to document what was witnessed. To me the definition of a prudent nurse means to act with integrity and prioritizes the patient's safety first. They make sure to stay professional in these situations. Gossiping is unprofessional and could potentially lead to harmful reputations. So when needed the report must remain confident and only reported to those who are legally required to know.