

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINERS  
131 AIRLINE DRIVE, SUITE 301  
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA 70001-6266  
(504) 838-5791  
FAX (504) 838-5279  
www.lsbpne.com

**In the matter of: Reginald Thomas**  
**License #20140816**  
**D.O.B. 03/16/1982**

This cause having come to be heard upon the complaint filed herein, the evidence and testimony entered before the presiding hearing officer on July 14, 2016. The nature of the hearing was prosecution of the matter.

The following witnesses were called to testify on behalf of the board:

- **Courtney Major, CNA, Northeast LA War Veterans Home**
- **Eunice Lee, RN, Northeast LA War Veterans Home**
- **Cheryl Perkins, RN, DON, Northeast LA War Veterans Home**

The respondent was present and did give sworn testimony.

There were no witnesses called to testify on behalf of the respondent.

During the formal hearing process, the following findings of fact and conclusions were confirmed based on the entire record:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The respondent was issued a license to practice practical nursing in the state of Louisiana on August 28, 2014.
2. The respondent was employed as a licensed practical nurse at the Northeast Louisiana War Veterans Home on September 16, 2014. On February 5, 2016, at 11:04 am, a resident on Coumadin had an unobserved fall in the dayroom. The respondent was notified by an aide and arrived to find the resident on the floor. He asked the resident if he had hit his head and the resident indicated that he had. The respondent took vital signs and assisted the aide in guiding the resident to a recliner in the area. The respondent did not assess the resident's neurological status at the time of the incident, and failed to perform neurochecks or follow up for the remainder of his 7 am to 3 pm shift. At 4:46 pm, the resident was found unresponsive in the chair and was transported to the emergency room, where he was pronounced dead at 2:19 am the following day.

The hearing officer finds that the respondent failed in his duties. The very basic protocol in nursing is to check on the patients every two hours. Not only did the respondent fail to perform a neurological exam on the resident, he also failed to perform basic nurse care follow-up for the remainder of his shift, thus contributing to the death of a patient in his care. The respondent admitted that his bad judgment played a part in the resident's death. (Refer to hearing transcript pg. 99 line 23 through pg. 100 line 1). The respondent also admitted that he forgot about the patient. (Refer to hearing transcript pg. 107 lines 8-12).

### JURISDICTION

The board has jurisdiction over the parties hereto and the subject matter hereof.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the facts set forth in the entire record and outlined herein above, the respondent is in violation of the following:

1. The Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, Title 37, Chapter 11, Part II, Section 969 A. (4);
  - (c) **is unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence habit, or other causes;**
  - (f) **is guilty of unprofessional conduct;**
  - (g) **has violated any provisions of this Part;**

**And 978 A (8) Violate any provisions of this Part and B.**

2. The Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 46, Part XLVII, Subpart 1, Sections § 306 T.
3. **being unfit, or incompetent by reason of negligence, habit or other causes;**
8. **being guilty of unprofessional conduct;**
  - a. **failure to practice practical nursing in accordance with the standards normally expected;**
  - b. **failure to utilize appropriate judgment in administering nursing practice;**
  - c. **failure to exercise technical competence in carrying out nursing care;**
  - j. **intentionally committing any act that adversely affects the physical or psychosocial welfare of the patient;**
  - p. **inappropriate, incomplete or improper documentation;**

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- t. violating any provisions of R.S. 37:961 et seq. (the practical nursing practice act), as amended or aiding or abetting therein.

### ORDER

The matter of Reginald Thomas, license #20140816, on November 4, 2016 came on for final action by the Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

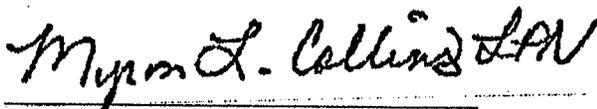
**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that the license of the respondent, Reginald Thomas, license #20140816, be **REVOKED**.

- A. The respondent is hereby fined \$500.00, payable by cashier's check or money order only, for the violations detailed in the conclusions of law, payable within 90 days of the date of the board order.
- B. The respondent is hereby assessed a hearing assessment fee of \$1,000.00, payable by cashier's check or money order only, within 90 days of the date of the board order.

### Public Records

This order is public record. All disciplinary actions of the board will be reported to all required data banks and agencies as required by law.

Rendered this 4th day of November, 2016 and signed this 4th day of November, 2016 at Metairie, Louisiana.



MYRON COLLINS, LPN  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



M. LYNN ANSARDI, RN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mailed this 4th day of November, 2016, by U.S. postal service certified mail return receipt #7016 0600 0000 6616 3163 and regular mail to the following address:

Reginald Thomas  
P.O. Box 394  
Epps, LA 71237