



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2019-78A

Kim Glazier, Executive Director
Oklahoma Board of Nursing
2915 N. Classen Blvd., Ste. 524
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106

February 26, 2019

Dear Executive Director Glazier:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding action that the Oklahoma Board of Nursing intends to take pursuant to an agreed order in case 3.155.19. The licensee violated safety standards and failed to adhere to CDC infection control guidelines by dropping an uncapped needle on the floor, picking it back up, and administering the injectable medication to a resident with the contaminated needle and syringe. The Board proposes to issue a reprimand and require the licensee to complete remedial education courses and pay an administrative penalty of \$500.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse “fails to adequately care for patients or to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable nursing” in a way that “unnecessarily exposes a patient or other person to risk of harm,” “is guilty of unprofessional conduct,” or “is guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient’s life, health or safety.” 59 O.S.Supp.2018, § 567.8(B)(3), (7-8). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed actions are necessary to deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Oklahoma Board of Nursing has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State’s policy to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring nurses meet minimum standards of professional conduct.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hunter".

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Otis".

AMANDA OTIS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL