



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2020-23A

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

July 31, 2020

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 in case 3.010.21. In March 2018, the licensee was charged with, and pleaded guilty to, two misdemeanors. In April 2018, the licensee left her job before her shift was over, did not complete a shift change reports, left 14 residents unattended, and left the keys to access medication unsecured on a doorknob. The licensee admitted to these acts. In June 2019, the licensee did not notify the Board of an address change and had previously failed to notify the Board of a name change after marriage in 2013. The licensee failed to cooperate with the Board investigation. The Board proposes an emergency temporary suspension pending a hearing.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse “[f]ails 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,” “[i]s guilty of unprofessional conduct,” or “[i]s guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient’s life, health or safety.” 59 O.S.Supp.2019, § 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 blue ink that reads "Ethan Shaner".

ETHAN SHANER
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL