



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2017-727A

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

October 19, 2017

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 consent agreement in case 3.074.18. The Board proposes to issue a severe reprimand, assess a \$500 administrative penalty, and require the licensee to complete additional education courses.

In June and July of 2016, the licensee, a registered nurse at a surgery center, administered Versed 2 mg, a Schedule IV Controlled Dangerous Substance medication, intravenously to two patients without a physician order. While the licensee reported receiving a verbal order from the physician, the licensee did not document the order or verify that it was documented by the physician.

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,” or “[i]s guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient’s life, health or safety.” 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 567.8(B)(3), (8). For violations of the Act, the Board may assess administrative penalties and “otherwise discipline licensees.” *Id.* § 567.8(A)(2)-(3). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed actions will protect patients and ensure safe nursing practice in the future.

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.

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

RYAN CHAFFIN
DEPUTY CHIEF – ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL