



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2015-36A

Deborah J. Bruce, J.D., Executive Director  
State Board of Osteopathic Examiners  
4848 Lincoln Boulevard, Ste. 100  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

October 6, 2015

Dear Executive Director Bruce:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners intends to take in Board case 0115-07. The proposed action is to defer a prosecution and impose educational and therapy requirements after a licensee's unprofessionally disruptive conduct—including through unprofessional language, attitude, and conduct with other professionals—led to termination from a residency program. The educational requirements include courses in boundaries and professionalism, ethics and professionalism, and treatment in anger management.

The Oklahoma Osteopathic Medicine Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2015, §§ 620–645, authorizes the Board to discipline a licensee for unprofessional conduct including “acting in a manner which results in final disciplinary action by any . . . hospital or medical staff of such hospital,” 59 O.S.2011, § 637(A)(2)(f). The Board may also discipline a licensee if “guilty of personal offensive behavior, which would include, but not be limited to obscenity, lewdness, molestation” and other actions. *Id.* § 637(A)(13). The action seeks to hold a professional accountable to these standards of professionalism—without barring the professional from practice—by requiring additional education.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma's policy to uphold standards of professionalism in the medical profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt", is written over a horizontal line.

E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA