



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2016-66A

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

February 8, 2016

Dear Executive Director Glazier:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action to be taken by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing pursuant to a consent agreement in Board case 3.288.16. The proposed action is to require the licensee to take educational courses in nursing law, critical thinking, and medication administration; to issue a severe reprimand; and to impose a \$500 penalty. The licensee, a charge nurse, left a long-term facility for approximately ten minutes without any other nurses present. Licensee also administered a drug without documenting its administration.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2015, §§ 567.1–567.20, authorizes the Board to impose discipline when nurses “[f]ail[] 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,” when nurses are “guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined in the rules of the Board,” and when they are “guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient’s life, health or safety,” 59 O.S.Supp.2015, § 567.8(B)(3), (7), (8). The Board’s rules include within the definition of unprofessional conduct leaving an assignment post without appropriate personnel being advised and keeping inaccurate patient records. *See* OAC 485:10-11-1(b)(3)(A), (F). The action seeks to uphold these requirements. Failure to keep accurate medication administration records may result in inaccurate data for physician decisions and poses a risk of harm to patients. Further, leaving an assignment, particularly as a charge nurse and the only nurse on duty, could result in harm if patient health problems arise. The Board may reasonably believe the discipline imposed in this case will adequately 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 these actions advance the State of Oklahoma’s policy to uphold minimum standards of care in the nursing profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. SCOTT PRUITT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA