



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2015-44A

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

October 15, 2015

Dear Executive Director Glazier:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the Oklahoma Board of Nursing intends to take. The proposed action is to require completion of a chemical dependence course and weekly attendance at a drug or alcohol treatment program for four months in Board case 3.092.16. The registered nurse had been bound in a prior agreed order requiring an evaluation of alcohol and drug dependence and allowing further ordered treatment.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2014, §§ 567.1–567.20, authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse is “intemperate in the use of alcohol or drugs, which use the Board determines endangers or could endanger patients,” 59 O.S.Supp.2014, § 567.8(B)(4). The action seeks to enforce an order of the Board ensuring the nurse receives treatment for alcohol or drug dependence. Requiring such treatment can achieve the public health goal of protecting patients from compromised nursing care while allowing nurses to continue to work and participate in the profession.

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 of Oklahoma’s policy to advance the public health, safety, and welfare.

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