



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2015-57A

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 in Board case 3.193.16. The proposed action is to require courses in nursing law, patient rights, and critical thinking; issue a severe reprimand; and fine the licensee \$1,000. The licensee verbally abused patients and failed to change dressings as ordered by a physician on at least two occasions in late 2014.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2014, §§ 567.1–567.20, authorizes the Board to impose discipline on nurses who fail to “conform to the minimum standards of acceptable nursing,” who are “guilty of unprofessional conduct,” and who are “guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient’s life, health or safety,” 59 O.S.Supp.2014, § 567.8(B)(3), (7), (8). The action seeks to protect patient health and safety by disciplining a nurse who failed to change wound dressings who verbally abused patients. The Board may believe that the discipline imposed will discourage the licensee from future violations and deter other potential violators.

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 protect the public health, welfare, and safety.

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

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA