



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2017-721A

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

October 18, 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 Executive Director Order in case 6.019.18. The Board proposes to accept the voluntary surrender of the licensee's registered nurse (RN) license. Prior to reinstatement, the licensee must complete nursing education courses and pay a \$500 administrative penalty.

On July 9-10, 2016, the licensee was working at a behavioral health treatment center and failed to timely notify the physician, supervisor, and family of a patient's suicide attempt. The licensee also failed to document performance of a physical assessment, vital signs, and additional monitoring on the patient. The licensee was terminated and has requested to surrender the RN license.

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." 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 567.8(B)(3). For violations of the Act, the Board may "deny, revoke or suspend" a license, "assess administrative penalties" and "otherwise discipline licensees." *Id.* § 567.8(A)(1)-(3). The Board may reasonably believe that the voluntary surrender of the licensee's RN license 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  
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