

## ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2018-137A

Kim Glazier, Executive Director Oklahoma Board of Nursing 2915 N. Classen Blvd., Ste. 524 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106 April 19, 2018

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 in case 3.029.18. The licensee admitted to sexually assaulting a patient. The licensee voluntarily surrendered the license pending hearing. The Complainant has now requested a continuance. The Board proposes to issue an order of continuance. The license shall remain surrendered pending the hearing.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse "fails 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," "is guilty of unprofessional conduct," "[f]ails to maintain professional boundaries with patients," or "[e]ngages in sexual misconduct... with a current or former patient." 59 O.S.Supp.2017, § 567.8(B)(3), (7), (12-13). The Board may reasonably believe that the proposed action is necessary to 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 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

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