

Office of Attorney General State of Oklahoma

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2018-253A

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

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 consent agreements in cases 5.060.18 and 5.066.18. In case 5.060.18, the licensee worked as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) without an active license from December 1, 2017 through January 12, 2018. That licensee has submitted a completed LPN reinstatement application to the Board. In case 5.066.18, the licensee worked as a LPN without an active license from May 1, 2017 through March 7, 2018. That licensee has submitted a completed Application for Reinstatement or Return to Active Status of Licensure. The Board proposes to grant both applications, but require the licensees to complete remedial education courses and pay an administrative penalty.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes corrective action when a nurse "[i]s guilty of unprofessional conduct," or has "[v]iolated a rule promulgated by the Board." 59 O.S.Supp.2017, §§ 567.8a(A); 567.8(B)(7), (9). Unprofessional conduct is defined as "conduct detrimental to the public interest." OAC 485:10-11-1(b)(3)(H). The Act further states that "[n]o person shall practice or offer to practice . . . practical nursing . . . in this state unless the person has complied with the provisions of the [Act]." 59 O.S.2011, § 567.14(A). 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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