



OFFICE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION  
2021-47A

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

October 25, 2021

Dear Executive Director Barnhouse:

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 3.2021030154.22. The Respondent holds a multi-state RN license. According to a Board complaint, in November 2020 the Respondent pled guilty to DUI and was ordered to a one-year deferred sentence, unsupervised probation, submission to a drug and alcohol assessment and payment of fines, costs and VCA. The Board proposes to convert the multi-state license to a single-state license and deactivate the multi-state privilege to practice as a RN in the compact party states, body fluid testing twice monthly until Board review of the evaluation and require payment of a \$500 administrative penalty

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse “[i]s guilty of a felony, or any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of any licensee,” or “is guilty of unprofessional conduct.” 59 O.S.Supp.2020, § 567.8(B)(2), (7). Unprofessional conduct includes “conduct detrimental to the public interest[.]” OAC 485:10-11-1(b)(3)(H). 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.

JOHN M. O’CONNOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

ETHAN SHANER  
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