



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2017-36A

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

January 27, 2017

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 under a consent agreement in Board case 5.038.17. The proposed action is to require the licensee to complete courses in nursing jurisprudence and roles and responsibilities of the licensed practical nurse in long-term care. After being notified that a hospice patient suffered a seizure, the licensee failed to do a proper assessment of the patient, failed to document the change in condition, and failed to notify other medical staff appropriately. The licensee was terminated thereafter.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2016, §§ 567.1–567.20, authorizes the Board to impose “corrective actions” when nurses violate the Act or the Board’s administrative rules, *see* 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 567.8a. The Act prohibits nurses from “fail[ing] to adequately care for patients or to conform to the minimum standards of acceptable nursing” and being “guilty of unprofessional conduct,” 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 567.8(B)(3), (7). The action seeks to enforce requirements aimed at protecting patients from inadequate nursing care. The Board may reasonably believe that additional education will deter similar conduct in the future and promote safe and effective nursing care.

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, safety, and welfare by ensuring nurses adequately care for patients.

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA