

Office of Attorney General State of Oklahoma

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION 2017-83A

February 15, 2017

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 agency actions that the Oklahoma Board of Nursing intends to take pursuant to consent agreements in Board cases 10.057.17 and 10.059.17. The proposed action in each case is to grant an application for licensure as a Registered Nurse by endorsement from another jurisdiction. The action in each case also requires the applicant to complete a course in nursing law, imposes a severe reprimand on the applicant, and assesses a \$500 fine.

The applicant in case 10.057.17 did not disclose a 2011 misdemeanor conviction involving domestic violence on the application. That applicant also has a 1999 misdemeanor theft conviction. The applicant in case 10.059.17 failed to disclose a 2015 criminal case involving a conviction for no proof of insurance along with other dismissed charges; the applicant received a misdemeanor conviction for no proof of insurance. That applicant also has a 2008 misdemeanor conviction involving elder abuse. The licensure application for both cases clearly required disclosure of the applicant's criminal history.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2016, §§ 567.1–567.20, authorizes the Board to deny applications where the applicant engages in deceit or material misrepresentation on an application or where the applicant engages in unprofessional conduct under the Board's rules, 59 O.S.Supp.2016, § 567.8(B)(1)(a), (7). The Board's rules define unprofessional conduct to include the submission of false documents to the Board. OAC 485:10-11-1(b)(3)(E).

These statutes and rules reflect the State's important interest in complete and accurate information during the professional licensure process. The actions, which include education, fines, and severe reprimands, can be reasonably thought to deter future violations and equip the applicant to better understand the professional obligations of a licensed professional.

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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 requiring complete and accurate information during the professional licensure process.

E. SCOTT PRUITT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA