



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2017-845A

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

December 5, 2017

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 a consent agreement in case 3.139.18. The licensee falsified a patient's medical records after administering a patient's medications hours after the ordered time and failed to watch over the assigned patient while the patient was outside without supervision for several hours. The Board proposes to issue a severe reprimand and require the licensee to complete two education courses and pay a \$500 administrative penalty.

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," or "is guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient's life, health or safety." 59 O.S.Supp.2017, § 567.8(B)(3), (7-8). 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

AMANDA OTIS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL