



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2017-857A

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 in case 3.125.18. A complaint was filed against the licensee for violations of the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act, including exposing a patient or other person to risk of harm and a series of felonies and misdemeanors. The Board attempted to notify the licensee of the complaints, but the Notice of Hearing was returned to the Board with the notation "Unclaimed" and "Unable to Forward." The Board proposes to issue an Order of Emergency Temporary Suspension pending hearing.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse "[i]s guilty of a felony, or any offense reasonably related to the qualifications, functions or duties of any licensee," "[f]ails to adequately care for patients," "unnecessarily exposes a patient or other person to risk of harm," "is guilty of unprofessional conduct," "is guilty of any act that jeopardizes a patient's life, health or safety," or "[v]iolate[s] a rule promulgated by the Board." 59 O.S.Supp.2017, § 567.8(B)(2-3), (7-9). The Board may reasonably believe that the seriousness of the allegations against the licensee warrant immediate disciplinary action.

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.

Handwritten signature of Mike Hunter in black ink.

MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

Handwritten signature of Amanda Otis in black ink.

AMANDA OTIS
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL