



MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2021-12A

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

March 31, 2021

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 3.2020110023.21. In September 2017, licensee was charged with felony “Accessory After the Fact.” In January 2019, licensee entered a *nolo contendere* plea to reduced misdemeanor charges and was ordered to a one-year imprisonment and payment of fines, costs, VCA and restitution. The Board proposes to issue a reprimand and require licensee to complete a Critical Thinking course, which includes Moral Reasoning. Failure to comply will result in a three-month suspension and assessment of a noncompliance penalty.

The Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act authorizes the Board to impose discipline when a nurse “[i]s guilty of ... any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of any licensee,” “[f]ails 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,” or “is guilty of unprofessional conduct.” 59 O.S.Supp.2020, § 567.8(B)(2), (3), (7). The rules of the Board define unprofessional conduct to include “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.

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MIKE HUNTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ethan Shaner".

ETHAN SHANER
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL