

Publishing Disciplinary Actions in the OSBN Newsletter

All disciplinary actions taken by the Oregon State Board of Nursing are public information. The Board takes disciplinary action against all those the Board licenses or certifies, including Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Medication Aides, Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. As public records, disciplinary actions taken by the Board are available to any person who makes a written public records request to the Board asking for the information. In addition, the Board publishes its minutes of Board meetings on the Board's Internet web site. Information regarding current disciplinary actions is available to persons who access the license verification phone line operated by the Board.

In addition to the above sources, the Board believes it should publish all disciplinary actions regardless of whether it results in an encumbrance on a license or certificate. The Board's newsletter, *Sentinel*, is sent to all licensed nurses and other interested parties in Oregon. The newsletter has wide distribution and the publication of disciplinary actions contributes to the Board's mission of protecting the public health, safety and welfare.

The Board will publish the name, license or certificate number, type of encumbrance, if any, taken against the licensee/certificate holder, and the reason for the disciplinary action for the following types of disciplinary sanctions:

- Reprimand – Formal notification to the licensee or certificate holder that the practice or conduct which came to the Board's attention should not be repeated again.
- Probation – A period of monitored practice for a licensee or certificate holder with terms and conditions of employment and reporting to the Board.
- Restriction – A condition placed on a license or certificate to restrict the type of setting or population of patients to whom the licensee or certificate holder may give care.
- Interim Consent Order – An intermediary step taken by the Board to restrict the practice of an individual pending further investigation for a serious practice or conduct allegation.
- Suspension – Removal of the license/certificate privilege for a period of time with terms and conditions to be met before the individual requests that the suspension be removed.
- Voluntary Surrender – Removal of the license/certificate privilege, often done voluntarily in lieu of the more serious sanction of revocation.¹
- Revocation – Removal of the license privilege for very serious charges of unsafe practice or misconduct.
- Denial of Licensure/Certification – Failure to grant a license or certificate to an initial applicant either by examination or by interstate endorsement.
- Civil Penalty for Nurse Imposter – A fine of up to \$5,000 for an individual who represents him/herself and/or practices as a licensed nurse when the person is not eligible for licensure as a nurse in the state of Oregon.
- Civil Penalty – A fine imposed in addition to a disciplinary sanction against the licensee.

In addition to publishing disciplinary sanctions in the *Sentinel*, the Board will also publish Board actions by category of conduct, complaints by category of conduct or practice and case examples. The Board will also notify individuals in the *Sentinel* that a list of all disciplinary actions taken by the Board, including those which are not considered an encumbrance on the license or certificate, is available upon request.

Adopted: September 15, 1999

Revised: January 2001, February 2007

¹ In contrast, a *No Fault Voluntary Surrender* is not disciplinary in nature and will not be published. These are often done at the request of the licensee or certificate holder when there are no violations of statute or rule cited but when the licensee or certificate holder wishes to cease practicing.