

## **What is the Program for Recovering Nurses (PRN)?**

Unsafe behaviors resulting from mental and emotional disorders or habitual chemical use pose a safety risk to the public and are grounds for Board discipline. However the Board believes that nurses who are diagnosed with these primary illnesses and who are actively engaged in treatment and recovery should be allowed to avoid discipline and return active practice nursing under strict monitoring conditions. If you know of a colleague who is no longer able to practice safely because of drugs/alcohol use or a mental health disorder, or if you, yourself are suffering from one of these primary illnesses contact the PRN at 1 800 386-1695 or visit them online at:

[www.southworthassociates.net](http://www.southworthassociates.net).

## **Happy 100th Birthday, Board of Nursing**

On March 9, 1911 Idaho's first Nursing Practice Act was signed into law, and the State Board of Examination and Registration of Graduate Nurses, which was to later become the Idaho Board of Nursing, was charged "to regulate the examination and registration of graduate nurses". The first Board included 2 nurses and 1 physician, appointed by the Governor to staggered three year terms. To be eligible, Board members had to be "actual residents of the state and engaged in professional work". The Board was to meet immediately upon their appointment and organization and as needed after that, to include an annual meeting in Boise and "in the northern part of the state" for the purpose of holding the nurse registration examination.

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Board members were to receive \$4.00 for each day they were "actually engaged in attendance upon meetings of the Board, and in going to and coming from their place of meeting". All costs of the Board were to be paid from fees received by the Board. A fee of \$10.00 was assessed for initial nurse registration. Additional fees of up to \$100 were assessed for false representation in applying for a license and for violating any provision of the law.

Over the last one hundred years, the Act has been amended a total of 24 times, most recently in 2010.

Today's Nursing Practice Act establishes the 9-member governor-appointed Board whose members include 1 advanced practice nurse, 5 licensed professional/registered nurses, 2 licensed practical nurses and 1 consumer. Member terms are for four years and a "per diem" of \$50 per day is paid to Board members for each day "spent in the actual performance of duties". The Board meets at least quarterly for the conduct of business.

The Board of Nursing continues to be self-supporting, receiving no monies from Idaho's General Fund to accomplish its current purpose to "safeguard the public health, safety and welfare". The Idaho Board has received recognition for excellence in nursing regulation from Nurse Practitioners of Idaho, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Congratulations and Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Idaho Board of Nursing!



# LICENSED PROFESSIONAL NURSE (RN) 2011- 2013

## Frequently Asked Questions



### **IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING**

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### ***I haven't been able to find a RN position; can I work as a LPN or CNA?***

RNs have the knowledge, skills and ability to perform LPN and CNA functions. If you are licensed to practice as a RN in Idaho you can fill a LPN position but cannot call yourself an LPN. You do not need to be on the Nurse Aide Registry to work in a CNA position. However, your RN license will authorize you to be listed on the Registry, if you choose. Regardless of the position you hold, you are held to the standards of practice defined by your license.

### ***How can I become involved in the work of the Board of Nursing?***

The Board of Nursing hosts an open forum at each regularly scheduled meeting in order to allow time for dialogue and input from the public. Plan to attend a meeting of the Board, to observe the deliberations and participate in the Open Forum. Or, notify the Governor of your interest in being appointed to the Board. The nine- member board includes 1 advanced practice professional nurse, 5 professional nurses, 2 LPNs and 1 consumer. To receive more information on the responsibilities of being a Board member, call the Board of Nursing office.

### ***Must I inform the Board of Changes in my Name or Address?***

The Board uses the most recent address on record to communicate with licensees regarding disciplinary actions and the need to renew a license. Administrative rules of the Board require that a licensed nurse must immediately notify the Board of any change of address or legal name change. Mail/email/phone the Board with changes or to request the necessary documents to initiate the change.

### ***Is administration of procedural sedation within my scope of practice?***

To determine your scope of practice, apply the process defined in "the Decision-Making Model" in Administrative Rules of the Board, IDAPA 23.01.01.400.

The Decision-Making Model will present questions to be considered in determining scope of practice:

1. Is the task expressly prohibited by the Nursing Practice Act or limited to the scope of practice of advanced practice professional nurses or prohibited by law?
2. Was the act taught as part of your basic nursing education? Do you possess current knowledge and competency to do this?
3. Is the act consistent with standards of practice published by a national specialty nursing organization or supported by recognized nursing literature or reputable published research?
4. Does your employment setting have established policies and procedures authorizing you to perform the function?
5. In a similar situation, would this same standard of care be provided by a reasonable and prudent nurse with similar education and experience and are you prepared to accept the consequences of the act?

The Decision-Making Model provides the format for determining scope of practice. The answer will not be the same for each professional nurse or in every situation.

### ***Has the Board adopted rules governing the use of Facebook or Twitter?***

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct to which Idaho nurses are held by rule. IDAPA 23.01.01.101.04.h states that a nurse shall not disseminate information about the patient to individuals not entitled to such information except where such information is required by law or for the protection of the patient. The section on professional responsibility (IDAPA 23.01.01.05h) states that the nurse shall respect the dignity of the profession and maintain appropriate professional boundaries in respect to patients, the patients' families and the nurses' co-workers. Whether it is accidental or by intent, revealing personal information about a client is a nursing practice violation. So be careful before you tweet or add to your Facebook page.

### ***Announcing:***

### ***Paperless Licensing coming in 2012.***

The Board plans to discontinue the use of printed wallet licensure certificates in the near future. This will be your last wallet-sized paper license; when you renew your license in 2013, you can print a copy of your renewed license from the website following renewal and anytime you lose your certificate.

**The Mission of the Board of Nursing is to regulate nursing practice and education for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety and welfare.**