

Board of Nursing – State of Idaho



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Boise, Idaho 83720-0061
(208) 334-3110
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RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

I, _____ authorize _____ to disclose to the Idaho
Your name *Provider Name*

Board of Nursing, their employees and/or agents, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0061, the following information and reports as it relates to my license to practice nursing within the state of Idaho:

1. Release of Confidential Information
2. Mental Health Evaluation
3. Drug and Alcohol Evaluation

I consider all my medical records to be privileged and confidential. I, therefore, give my permission for the following individual/agency to provide information/reports to the Idaho Board of Nursing. I further acknowledge that this consent is given of my own free will. I also understand that I may revoke, in writing and delivered to the Board of Nursing, this consent at any time except to the extent that action has been taken in reliance on it and that in any event this consent expires automatically in twelve months.

Executed this _____ day of _____, _____
day *month* *year*

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Witness



Idaho Board of Nursing

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In response to questions from nurses and their employers, the members of the Board of Nursing addressed the issue of 'safety to practice'. In particular, nurses wanted to know if they should continue to practice while taking prescribed medications, including pain medications; whether they should refuse assignments to work overtime or extra shifts; whether they should consider retirement from practice when they have reached a certain chronological age.

The Board's "Position on Safety to Practice" provides thoughtful direction to assist nurses and their employers in addressing these concerns.

IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING POSITION ON SAFETY TO PRACTICE Adopted April 29, 2005

One essential element of safe nursing practice is a nurse's functional ability: the competence and reliability with which a nurse is able to practice at any given time.

The board is aware that nurses sometimes experience situations that may compromise their ability to safely practice for either the short or long term. Some of these situations involve personal or job-related stress, sleep deprivation, the normal effects of aging, and episodic or persistent health conditions, some of which may require pain management or the use of maintenance-level prescribed medication. The list is not exclusive.

Whether a nurse should continue active nursing practice when that practice may be compromised depends upon the nurse's ability to function safely and effectively. The assessment of functional ability is an individualized process that does not lend itself to application of a set format based on select elements. On the contrary, assessment of functional ability requires active consideration of all relevant factors, such as diagnosis, prescribed treatment and situational events, as well as an evaluation of the impact of those factors on the individual being assessed.

Although constant evaluation of one's ability to safely and competently practice nursing is the responsibility of each individual nurse, the Board of Nursing remains the ultimate decision maker. In some instances, it may be necessary for the board to require objective physical and/or functional assessment, using reliable psychometric instruments and methods administered by qualified licensed professionals. For example, even though an individual nurse might perceive that he is capable of safe practice, a neuropsychiatric assessment, done at the Board's request, may indicate functional impairment.

Licensed nurses are accountable for assuring that their actions and behaviors meet all applicable standards at all times. This requires constant awareness of the demands of the job and a continual process of evaluation and assessment in order to make sure that the nurse is fit to practice and competent to safely perform those functions that fall within the defined scope of nursing practice and for which the nurse has accepted responsibility. Nurses who practice while not fit to do so may be subject to disciplinary action by the board including, among others, license suspension or revocation, remedial measures, or monitored practice.

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