

**IDAPA 23  
TITLE 01  
CHAPTER 01**

**IDAPA 23 - BOARD OF NURSING**

**23.01.01 - RULES OF THE IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING**

**101. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.**

**01. Violations.** Any violation of these Standards of Conduct shall be grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with Section 54-1413(1), Idaho Code, of the Idaho Nursing Practice Act and Section 090 or 100 of these rules. (3-30-07)

**02. Classification.** For purposes of convenience only, the standards of conduct are grouped generally into one (1) of three (3) categories: license, practice, and professional responsibility. The fact that any particular standard is so classified in any particular category will not be relevant for any purpose other than ease of use. (3-15-02)

**03. License.** (3-15-02)

**a. Period of Practice.** The nurse shall practice registered or practical nursing in Idaho only with a current Idaho license or during the period of valid temporary licensure or as otherwise allowed by law. (3-15-02)

**b. Aiding in Violation of Law.** The nurse shall not aid, abet, or assist any other person to violate or circumvent laws or rules pertaining to the conduct and practice of nursing. (11-28-84)

**c. Reporting Grossly Negligent or Reckless Practice.** The nurse shall report to the Board any licensed nurse who is grossly negligent or reckless in performing nursing functions or who otherwise violates the Nursing Practice Act or the Board rules. (7-1-93)

**d. Unlawful Use of License.** The nurse shall not permit his license to be used by another person for any purpose or permit unlicensed persons under his jurisdiction or supervision to indicate in any way that they are licensed to perform functions restricted to licensed persons. (7-1-93)

**e. Impairment of Ability.** The nurse shall not practice nursing while the ability to practice is impaired by alcohol or drugs or physical, mental or emotional disability. (11-28-84)

**04. Practice.** (3-15-02)

**a. Perform Acts.** The nurse shall have knowledge of the statutes and rules governing nursing and shall function within the defined legal scope of nursing practice. The nurse shall not assume any duty or responsibility within the practice of nursing without adequate training or where competency has not been maintained. (3-15-02)

**b. Delegating Activities to Others.** The nurse shall delegate activities only to persons who are competent and qualified to undertake and perform the delegated activities and shall not delegate to non-licensed persons functions that are to be performed only by licensed nurses. (4-4-13)

**c. Supervision.** The nurse delegating functions shall supervise the persons to whom the functions have been assigned or delegated. (11-28-84)

**d. Safeguarding Patient.** The nurse shall act to safeguard the patient from the incompetent practice, verbal or physical abusive acts or illegal practice of any person. (7-1-93)

**e. Prescription Drugs.** The nurse shall not obtain, possess, furnish or administer prescription drugs to

any person, including self, except as directed by a person authorized by law to prescribe drugs. (11-28-84)

**f.** Leaving Assignment. The nurse shall not abandon patients in need of nursing care in a negligent or wanton manner. The nurse shall leave a nursing assignment only after properly reporting and notifying appropriate personnel and shall transfer responsibilities to appropriate personnel or care giver when continued care is required by the patient's condition. (7-1-91)

**g.** Respecting Patient's Privacy. The nurse shall respect the patient's privacy. (7-1-91)

**h.** Confidentiality. The 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. (7-1-91)

**i.** Observe and Report. The nurse shall observe the condition and signs and symptoms of a patient, record the information, and report to appropriate persons any significant changes. (7-1-91)

**j.** Collaboration. The nurse shall function as a member of the health team and shall collaborate with other health team members as necessary to meet the patient's health needs. (7-1-91)

**k.** Universal Standards. The nurse shall adhere to universal standards and carry out principles of asepsis and infection control and shall not place the patient, the patient's family or the nurse's coworkers at risk for the transmission of infectious diseases. (3-15-02)

**05. Professional Responsibility.** (3-15-02)

**a.** Disclosing Contents of Licensing Examination. The nurse shall not disclose contents of any licensing examination, or solicit, accept, or compile information regarding the contents of any examination before, during, or after its administration. (11-28-84)

**b.** Considerations in Providing Care. In providing nursing care, the nurse shall respect and consider the individual's human dignity, health problems, personal attributes, national origin, and handicaps and shall not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, economic or social status or sexual preferences in the rendering of nursing services. (11-28-84)

**c.** Responsibility and Accountability Assumed. The nurse shall be responsible and accountable for his nursing judgments, actions and competence. (7-1-93)

**d.** Witnessing Wastage of Controlled Substances Medication. Controlled substances may not be wasted without witnesses. The nurse shall not sign any record as a witness attesting to the wastage of controlled substance medications unless the wastage was personally witnessed. The nurse shall not solicit the signatures on any record of a person as a witness to the wastage of a controlled substance when that person did not witness the wastage. The nurse shall solicit signatures of individuals who witnessed the wastage in a timely manner. (3-30-07)

**e.** Record-keeping. The nurse shall make or keep accurate, intelligible entries into records required by law, employment or customary practice of nursing, and shall not falsify, destroy, alter or knowingly make incorrect or unintelligible entries into patients' records or employer or employee records. (11-28-84)

**f.** Diverting or Soliciting. The nurse shall respect the property of the patient and employer and shall not take or divert equipment, materials, property, or drugs without prior consent or authorization, nor shall the nurse solicit or borrow money, materials or property from patients. (3-15-02)

**g.** Exploit, Solicit, or Receive Fees. The nurse shall not exploit the patient or the patient's family for personal or financial gain or offer, give, solicit, or receive any fee or other consideration for the referral of a patient or client. (3-15-02)

**h.** Professionalism. The nurse must not abuse the patient's trust. The nurse shall respect the dignity of

the profession and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with respect to patients, the patients' families, and the nurse's coworkers. The nurse will not engage in sexual misconduct or violent, threatening or abusive behavior towards patients, patients' families or the nurse's coworkers. The nurse must be aware of the potential imbalance of power in professional relationships with patients, based on their need for care, assistance, guidance, and support, and ensure that all aspects of that relationship focus exclusively upon the needs of the patient. (3-15-02)(\_\_\_\_\_)

i. For purposes of this rule and Section 54-1413, Idaho Code, sexual misconduct violations include, but are not limited to: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Engaging in or soliciting any type of sexual conduct with a patient; \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Using the nurse-patient relationship, trust and confidence of the patient derived from the nurse-patient relationship, or any information obtained as a result of the nurse-patient relationship, to solicit, suggest or discuss dating or a romantic or sexual relationship with a patient; \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Using confidential information obtained during the course of the nurse-patient relationship to solicit, suggest or discuss dating or a romantic relationship, or engaged in sexual conduct with a patient, former patient, colleague, or member of the public; and \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Engaging in or attempting to engage in sexual exploitation or criminal sexual misconduct directed at patients, former patients, colleagues, or members of the public, whether within or outside the workplace. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. For purposes of this rule: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Consent of a patient shall not be a defense. In the case of sexual exploitation or criminal sexual misconduct, consent of the victim shall not be a defense. \_\_\_\_\_

(2) A patient ceases to be a patient thirty (30) days after receiving the final nursing services, or final reasonably anticipated nursing services from a nurse, unless the patient is determined by the Board to be particularly vulnerable by his minority; known mental, emotional, or physical disability; known alcohol or drug dependency; or other circumstance. A patient that is deemed particularly vulnerable ceases to be a patient one (1) year after receiving the final nursing services, or final reasonably anticipated nursing services from a nurse. \_\_\_\_\_

(3) It is not a violation of this rule for a nurse to continue a sexual relationship with a spouse or individual of majority if a consensual sexual relationship existed prior to the establishment of the nurse-patient relationship. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. The following definitions apply to this rule: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) "Sexual conduct" means any behavior that might reasonably be interpreted as being designed or intended to arouse or gratify the sexual desires of an individual. This includes, but is not limited to, physical touching of breasts, buttocks or sexual organs, creation or use of pornographic images, discussion about sexual topics unrelated to the patient's care, intentional exposure of genitals, and not allowing a patient privacy, except as may be medically necessary. \_\_\_\_\_

(2) "Sexual exploitation" means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual conduct of another, or withholding or threatening to withhold care, medication, food or other services to coerce sexual conduct. \_\_\_\_\_

(3) "Criminal sexual misconduct" means any sexual conduct that, if proven, would constitute a felony or misdemeanor under state or federal law. \_\_\_\_\_