



# Idaho Board of Nursing

## Position Statement

### Ethics in Nursing

The Idaho Board of Nursing is committed to elevating the practice of nursing by regulating, supporting, and empowering nurses to perform at the highest level of their licensure to protect the public's health, safety, and well-being.

One aspect of this commitment is to recognize the importance of nursing Standards of Conduct and specifically, Professional Responsibility as outlined in IDAPA 24.34.01.101.05. In providing nursing care, every nurse is obligated to respect and consider individual human dignity, health problems, personal attributes, national origin, and handicaps while providing care to those they serve.

The Board formally recognizes the current American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses to describe expected standards of professional behavior. The 9 provisions of the ANA Codes of Ethics for Nurses are listed below. Provisions 1-3 reiterates the fundamental values and commitments of the nurse, Provisions 4-6 identifies the boundaries of duty and loyalty, and Provisions 7-9 describes the duties of the nurse that extend beyond individual patient encounters.

1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.
4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.
7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.
9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

Adopted:  
11/6/2020

The Board believes that by further clarifying and re-enforcing the importance of the foundational values of nursing, nurses are supported in providing consistently respectful, humane, and dignified care throughout Idaho.

References: Fowler, M. D. (2015). *Guide to the code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements: Development, interpretation, and application*. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.