

Maine State Board of Nursing

WEBSITE: <http://maine.gov/boardofnursing/>

ESTABLISHED: 1915

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 32 MRSA Chapter 31.

MISSION:

The mission of the Board of Nursing is to protect the public health and welfare in the area of nursing practice. The Board accomplishes this through regulating licensure of nurses, nursing practice, and approval of nursing education programs.

BOARD COMPOSITION:

The members of the Board are appointed by the Governor. The Board is composed of:

1. Six professional nurses, each of whom:
 - A. Must be a graduate of a state-approved educational program in professional nursing;
 - B. Holds a current state license to practice nursing; and
 - C. Has at least 3 years' experience in active practice immediately preceding appointment.
 - D. A minimum of 2 professional nurses must be active in an approved educational program in nursing. A minimum of 2 professional nurses must be active in nursing service. One of the professional nurse members of the board must be practicing long-term care nursing. One of the professional nurse members of the board must be an advanced practice registered nurse;
2. One licensed practical nurse who:
 - A. Must be a graduate of a state-approved educational program in practical nursing;
 - B. Holds a current state license to practice practical nursing; and
 - C. Has at least 3 years' experience in active practice immediately preceding appointment; and
3. Two public members. A person may not qualify for appointment as a public member of the board if that person or a member of that person's immediate family is serving as:
 - A. A member of another state licensing board;
 - B. On the board of another health care agency; and
 - C. Engaged for compensation in the provision of health services or the provision of health research, instruction or insurance.

BOARD STAFF:

The Board employs its own administrative and investigative staff and is provided with the legal and investigative staff by the Maine Department of Attorney General.

BOARD FUNCTIONS:

1. Licensing. The board issues, renews, reinstates and reactivates licenses. The Board issues the following types of licenses:
 - Registered Nurses (25,155 Active licenses)
 - Licensed Practical Nurses (2,205 Active licensees)
 - Advanced Practice Registered Nurses: (Total – 2,336 Active Licenses)
 - Certified Nurse Practitioners (1,709 Active licensees)
 - Certified Nurse Midwives (98 Active licensees)
 - Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (451 Active licensees)
 - Clinical Nurse Specialists (78 Active licensees)

Total Active Licensees: 27,360 Active Licenses

2. Investigation of Complaints. The Board investigates all complaints and reports of nurse misconduct: <http://maine.gov/boardofnursing/discipline/file-complaint.html>. Adverse licensing and disciplinary actions are posted on the board's website: <http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/discipline/disciplinary-actions.html>. Discipline FAQ: <http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/discipline/faq.html>
3. Rule Making. The Board follows the Maine Administrative Procedure Act in enacting rules for the regulation of nurses.
4. Approval of Educational Programs. The Board prescribes curricula, establishes standards for nursing educational programs, and approves programs that meet the requirements of the law and the standards established by the Board.

The Maine State Board of Nursing believes that:

Nursing is a service that evolves from the health care needs of society, and that consumer participation in the regulatory process is valuable in assuring greater responsiveness to the public's needs.

Nursing regulation should exist solely to protect the public health, safety and welfare; should be at the least restrictive level to ensure public safety; and should be administered in a cost effective and cost conscious manner.

Consumers have a right to expect practitioners of nursing to meet ethical, professional and legal standards.

Consumers of nursing services can best be protected through the appropriate use of the Board's authority to investigate complaints, conduct hearings and impose sanctions.

Protection of the public includes dissemination and provision of information about disciplinary activity within the jurisdiction and across jurisdictional boundaries.

The practitioner of nursing must accept responsibility for maintaining competency and currency by one's individual commitment to continuing education.

TYPES OF ETHICAL ISSUES:

- Boundary Violations
- Fraud or Deceit in Obtaining a License
- Aiding or Abetting Unlicensed Practice
- False, Misleading, or Deceptive Advertising
- Sexual Misconduct
- Patient Privacy Violation
- Falsifying Medical Records
- Inappropriate Prescribing
- Violation of ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses