



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
South Carolina Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 12367 • Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: 803-896-4550 • Fax: 803-896-4515 • www.llronline.com/POL/nursing/



South Carolina Board of Nursing October 2013 Insert into the SC Nurse Newsletter

MISSION OF THE BOARD OF NURSING

The mission of the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practice of nursing.

This mission is accomplished by assuring safe initial practice as well as continuing competency in the practice of nursing and by promoting nursing excellence in the areas of education and practice. The Board licenses qualified individuals as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses or advanced practice registered nurses. Complaints against nurses are investigated and disciplinary action taken when necessary. Schools of nursing are surveyed and approved to ensure quality education for future nurses.

BOARD REVIEWS ADVISORY OPINION

At its July 2013 meeting, the Board reviewed Advisory Opinion #43 and approved with no changes, as recommended by the Nursing Practice and Standards Committee (NPSC).

BOARD UPDATES APPROVED ADVANCED PRACTICE CERTIFICATION LIST

At its July 2013 meeting, the Board voted to accept the addition of Adult-Gero Acute Care NP to the certification list for ANCC and AACN. The revised list of Board-Approved Advanced Practice Certification Organizations can be found on the Board of Nursing website under Applications and Forms.

REPORTING MISCONDUCT AND VIOLATIONS OF THE NURSE PRACTICE ACT

It has come to the attention of the S.C. Board of Nursing that there is reluctance on the part of some employers to report violations of the Nurse Practice Act by their employees.

S. C. Code Ann. § 40-33-111(A) of the Nurse Practice Act states that:

(A) An employer, including an agency, or supervisor of nurses, shall report any instances of the misconduct or the incapacities described in Section 40-33-110 to the State Board of Nursing not more than fifteen business days, excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, from the discovery of the misconduct or incapacity. A nurse supervisor who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity may be subject to disciplinary action and civil sanctions as provided for in Section 40-33-120. An employer who is not licensed by the Board and who fails to timely report the misconduct or incapacity shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation upon notice of the board.

The Board believes it is important to note there are possible sanctions for employers who fail to report misconduct or incapacities in a timely manner to the Board. It is important for the safety of the citizens of South Carolina that nurses and employers of nurses adhere to the S.C. Nurse Practice Act.



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Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Fact Sheet for Licensees and Nursing Students

www.ncsbn.org/nlc

Background

- The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) allows a registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN) to have one multistate license in a primary state of residency (the home state) and to practice in other compact states (remote states), while subject to each state's practice laws and discipline.
- The NLC allows a nurse to practice both physically and electronically across state lines unless the nurse is under discipline or restriction.
- Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are not included in this compact. APRNs must apply in each state in which they practice, unless exempted when employed in a federal facility.

Multistate and Single-state Licenses

- A nurse must legally reside in an NLC state to be eligible for issuance of a multistate license. In order to obtain a compact license, one must declare a compact state as the primary state of residency and hold a nursing license in good standing. There is not a separate application for obtaining a multistate license.
- A nurse whose primary state of residence is a noncompact state is not eligible for a compact license.
- Upon being issued a compact (multistate) license, any additional active compact state licenses held are inactivated because a nurse can only hold one multistate license.

- A nurse licensed in a compact state must meet the licensure requirements in the home state. When practicing on a multistate privilege in a remote state, the nurse is accountable for complying with the Nurse Practice Act of that state.
- A nurse with an active compact (multistate) license wanting to practice in another compact state does not need to complete any applications nor pay any fees as the home state license is accepted as a privilege to practice in other compact states.
- A nurse who declares a noncompact state as the primary state of residence will be issued a single-state license.
- A nurse must hold a separate license in each noncompact state where practice privileges are desired.
- While under disciplinary action, multistate privileges may be removed and the nurse's practice may be restricted to the home state.
- The NCLEX® can be taken in any jurisdiction. However, graduates applying for a license, who legally reside in a compact state (the home state) can only apply to their home state board of nursing. This means that the applicant cannot apply for a compact license in a compact state other than the one in which he/she legally resides.

Requirements When Moving

- When a nurse moves from a compact state to a noncompact state to practice nursing, the compact license is changed to a single-state license and the nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residency.
- When a nurse declares a compact state as the primary state of residency, the nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residency.
- When a nurse changes primary state of residency by moving from one compact state to another compact state, the nurse can practice on the former residency license for up to 30 days. The nurse is required to apply for licensure by endorsement, pay any applicable fees and complete a declaration of primary state of residency in the new home state, whereby a new multistate license is issued and the former license is inactivated. Proof of residency may be required.
- Licensure renewal cycles vary state to state. Nurses are required to promptly declare a new state of residency when they obtain a new driver's license, change where federal taxes are paid or register to vote and not wait for their license to lapse or expire in the prior home state.
- A nurse on a visa from another country applying for licensure in a party state may declare either the country of origin or the party state as the primary state of residency. If the foreign country is declared the primary state of residency, a single-state license will be issued by the party state.

Definitions

- **Compact:** An interstate agreement between two or more states established for the purpose of remedying a particular problem of multistate concern. (Black's Law Dictionary)
- **Party or Compact State:** Any state that has adopted the NLC.
- **Home State:** The party state that serves as the nurse's primary state of residence.
- **Remote State:** A party state other than the home state where the patient is located at the time nursing care is provided or in the case of the practice of nursing not involving a patient, a party state where the recipient of nursing practice is located.
- **Primary State of Residence:** The state in which a nurse declares a principal residence for legal purposes.
- **Nursys:** A database that contains the licensure and disciplinary information of all RNs and LPN/VNs as contributed by party states.

*For more information about NLC, visit www.ncsbn.org/nlc or e-mail nursecompact@ncsbn.org.
111 E. Wacker Drive, Ste. 2900, Chicago, IL 60601-4277 312.525.3600 www.ncsbn.org*

HOW CAN I CHECK A LICENSE?

To check a nursing license, you may utilize one or all of the following options:

1. **SC Licensee Lookup** - Go to www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/, click on Licensee Lookup and choose Nursing. As you enter information, it is recommended that you enter a portion of the nurse's name only. You will be provided with the nurse's name, city and state, license number, as well as license type, date issued/expires, license status, and whether the license is multi-state or single state.
2. **Nursys QuickConfirm** - Go to <https://www.nursys.com/> click on QuickConfirm and follow the instructions. You will be provided with the nurse's name, state of licensure, license type and number, license status, license expiration date and discipline status. The following states participate in QuickConfirm: Alaska, Arkansas, American Samoa, Arizona, California-RN, California-VN, Colorado, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana-RN, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Northern Mariana Islands, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, *South Carolina*, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Virgin Islands, Vermont,

Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia-PN, West Virginia-RN, and Wyoming. Go to NCSBN.org for updates as states are added.

3. Other States - Most states have licensee lookup/licensure verification on their websites. Links to boards of nursing can be found at www.ncsbn.org.

You may check for discipline against a South Carolina nursing license on the Board's website at www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/ under Board Orders.

ATTENTION APRNs

You must notify the Board of your certification, re-certification or renewal.

- Are you licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)?
- Have you renewed your certification?
- Did you know the Board does not automatically receive notification you have renewed your certification?
- Did you know it is the licensee's responsibility to provide the Board with a copy of his or her current certification/recertification?

If you have recently become certified, recertified, or renewed your certification, please mail a copy of your current certification card to: LLR-Board of Nursing, Attn: Advanced Practice Licensure, P. O. Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. You may also scan your document and email to Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov or send your document by fax to 803-896-4515.

CHANGING YOUR NAME ON NURSING LICENSE

If you have had a legal name change, submit your written request, along with a copy of the legal document(s) (copy of marriage certificate, divorce decree, court order, etc.), to LLR – Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211. Please indicate in your request whether you will use your middle name or maiden name for your middle initial or if you wish to hyphenate your name. For example, if Jane Ann Doe marries John Smith will she use Jane Ann Smith? or Jane Doe Smith? or Jane Ann Doe Smith? or Jane Ann Doe-Smith? Your request will be processed within five business days of receipt in Board offices and will be reflected on Licensee Lookup within three to five business days after the change is made.

You may verify that your name change request has been processed on Licensee Lookup on the Board's website (www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/). When utilizing Licensee Lookup, you do not have to enter complete names. For example, "J" and "Smith" will search for records with a last name of "Smith" and a first name beginning with "J." Refer to Section 40-33-36(B) of the Nurse Practice Act regarding statutory requirements for your name on your license. You may view the Nurse Practice Act – Chapter 33 located under Law/Policies on the Board's website.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. So you do not miss important time-sensitive information from the Board, such as your courtesy renewal notice, audit notice or other important licensure information, be sure to notify the Board immediately whenever you change your address. Failure to notify the Board of an address change may result in discipline. You may change your address online utilizing the address change form under Online Services found on the Board's website: www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/.

Note: *Changing your address with the South Carolina Nurses Association (SCNA) does not change your address on your licensing records with the South Carolina State Board of Nursing.*

BOUNCED CHECKS MEANS NON-PAYMENT OF FEES

When submitting any fees to the Board of Nursing, be certain there are sufficient funds in your account to cover your payment (*paper or electronic check or credit card*) and that the payment has cleared before closing the account. Section 40-1-50(G) of the South Carolina Code of Laws states that a license shall be suspended if a fee payment is made by a check that is subsequently returned by the financial institution unpaid and is not made good within 10 days of official notification. This suspension is exempt from the Administrative Procedures Act. Unpaid checks constitute a non-payment of license fees. Section 40-33-38(C) of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Nurse Practice Act) requires that *all* licensees notify the Board *in writing* within 15 days of *any* address change. When a check is returned, replacement funds, plus the returned check fee allowed by law, will be charged.

VISIT THE BOARD WEBSITE OFTEN

When is the last time you visited the Board of Nursing's website? The Board recommends all nurses licensed by or working in South Carolina visit its website (www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/) *at least* monthly for up-to-date information on nursing licensure in South Carolina. When a new advisory opinion is issued or a current advisory opinion revised, it is updated on the website. The Competency Requirement, Competency Requirement Criteria, Licensure information, Advisory Opinions, Position Statements and the Nurse Practice Act are just a few of the valuable tools and information you will find on the website.

The Advisory Opinions, Position Statements and the Nurse Practice Act are located under Laws/Policies. The Competency Requirement and Competency Requirement Criteria, which includes continuing education contact hours, are located under Licensure.

The Board hopes you will find this information useful in your nursing practice.

BOARD MEMBERS

Samuel H. McNutt, RN, CRNA, MHSA, Congressional District 5 - *President*
Carol A. Moody, RN, MAS, NEA-BC, Congressional District 4 - *Vice President*
Amanda E. Baker, RN, MSN, MNA, CRNA, Congressional District 2 - *Secretary*
Tara R. Hulseley, PhD, RN, CNE, Congressional District 1
W. Kay Swisher, RNC, MSN, Congressional District 3
Vacant, Congressional District 6
Karen R. Hazzard MSN, RN, NE-BC, Congressional District 7
Anne Crook, PhD, Public Member
James E. Mallory, EdD, Public Member
Vacant, (2) Licensed Practical Nurses At Large

Vacancies: [See Section 40-33-10(A) of the Nurse Practice Act for prerequisites and requirements]

S.C. BOARD OF NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION:

Main Telephone Line	(803) 896-4550
Fax Line	(803) 896-4515
General Email	Nurseboard@llr.sc.gov
Website	www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/

The Board of Nursing is located at Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 110 Centerview Drive, Suite 202, Columbia, SC 29210. Directions to the office can be found on the website - www.llronline.com - at the bottom of the page. The Board's mailing address is LLR - Office of Board Services - SC Board of Nursing, Post Office Box 12367, Columbia, SC 29211-2367.

Normal agency business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices are closed for holidays designated by the state.

BOARD OF NURSING ADMINISTRATION

Nancy G. Murphy, Administrator	nancy.murphy@llr.sc.gov
Shannon Beaudry, Assistant to Administrator	shannon.beaudry@llr.sc.gov

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Main Telephone Line	(803) 896-4470
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WEBSITE: www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/

The Board of Nursing Website contains the Nurse Practice Act (Chapter 33-Laws

Governing Nursing in South Carolina), Regulations (Chapter 91), Compact Information, Advisory Opinions, Licensure Applications, Continued Competency Requirements/Criteria, Application Status, Licensee Lookup, Disciplinary Actions, and other helpful information. All nurses are encouraged to visit the website *at least* monthly for up-to-date information.

Board of Nursing Meeting Calendar for 2013

Board and Committee meeting agendas are posted [on](#) the Board's website (www.llronline.com/POL/Nursing/) at least 24 hours prior to meeting.

<u>Board of Nursing Meeting</u>	November 21-22, 2013
Advanced Practice Committee	November 1, 2013
Advisory Committee on Nursing	October 15, 2013
Advisory Committee on Nursing	December 3, 2013
Nursing Practice & Standards Committee	October 10, 2013

Designated 2013 State Holidays

Observed On

Veterans Day	Monday, November 11, 2013
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 28, 2013
Day after Thanksgiving Day	Friday, November 29, 2013
Christmas Eve	Tuesday, December 24, 2013
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25, 2013
Day after Christmas	Thursday, December 26, 2013