



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

South Carolina Board of Nursing

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ADVISORY OPINION # 8

FORMULATED: March 1984

REVISED: July 2024, July 2001, March 1993

REVIEWED: April 2022, October 2019, July 2017, March 2011, July 2007, May 2006, July 2005, July 1998, January 1997, November 1991

QUESTION: May a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) practice as a Licensed midwife?

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina acknowledges that the registered nurse (RN) or the licensed practical nurse (LPN) may practice as a licensed midwife. The current regulations for licensed Midwives in the State of South Carolina under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health (DPH) do not restrict application for licensed midwifery to non-professionals.

Therefore, it is recognized that the law does not prohibit this activity for a RN or LPN. However, if a RN or LPN seeks and acquires registration as a licensed midwife, this does not qualify that nurse as a Certified Nurse Midwife as defined in the Laws Governing Nursing in South Carolina.

Although the law does not prohibit a RN or LPN from acquiring licensure as a licensed midwife, it is essential that the licensed midwife represent him/herself as such to prospective clients. The public must know the credentials of a care provider and be specifically informed that a licensed nurse who is also licensed by DHEC as a licensed midwife is not a Certified Nurse Midwife. When a licensed nurse also performs as a licensed midwife, the nurse will be held to the higher standard expected from licensed nurses.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.