

# Louisiana State Board of Nursing

907 Pere Marquette Building  
150 Baronne Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2382  
504-568-5464

December 14, 1978

Ms. Addie Richardson, R.N.  
P.O. Box 84  
Winnsboro, La. 71295

Dear Ms. Richardson:

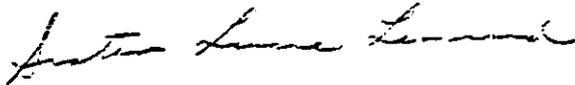
The Board of Nursing appreciated the opportunity to discuss the legality of nurses dispensing and labeling medications with you and Mr. William Tarver on December 8, 1978. The Board recognizes that your current procedure for obtaining medication for your clients is time consuming. However, after due deliberation on the matter, the Board issued the following opinion:

Registered nurses may not dispense medications because this function is not within the realm of nursing. The Pharmacy Law, R.S. 37:1194, restricts the dispensing of prescriptions to registered pharmacists and qualified assistants. (Section 1192 defines qualified assistants as persons who were issued certificates prior to July 28, 1948.) R.S. 37:1204 lists only the registered practitioner of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine as exceptions to the restrictions relative to the practice of pharmacy.

Additionally, the Board feels that the practice of nursing is diluted when nurses assume non nursing functions. For that reason, the Board is opposed to changing the law to permit nurses to dispense medication.

I hope the officials in the Department of Mental Health will succeed in implementing their plans for pharmacy coverage for your area so that your present problems will be alleviated.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.  
Nursing Practice Consultant

cc: Ms. Bobbie Downs

(mailed cc to 4155 Essen Lane  
Apt. 83  
Baton Rouge, La. 70809 )

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
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