

Louisiana State Board of Nursing

Mary Ann Kohnke, R.N.
President

MISS MERLYN M. MAILLIAN, R.N.
Executive Director

907 Pere Marquette Building
150 Baronne Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

June 4, 1979

Mr. Raymond F. Vincent, C.R.N.A., President
Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists
4609 Sale Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70605

Dear Mr. Vincent:

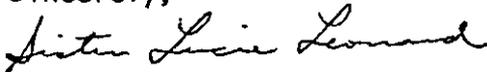
The Louisiana State Board of Nursing held its regular meeting on May 31 and June 1, 1979, and your request for an interpretation of "emergency situation" in R.S. 37:930, B, (4), was on the agenda. Mr. Oswald A. Ferry, C.R.N.A. was present for the deliberation of the Board on this issue. Following is the Board's interpretation of "emergency situation":

Roles and responsibilities change in terms of emergencies which are life threatening situations. When, in the opinion of the attending physician, the patient's situation is Life Threatening and no physician anesthesiologist nor a certified registered nurse anesthetist is available, then, and only then, may a registered nurse who does not meet the qualifications specified in R.S. 37:930 legally administer an anesthetic agent. At all other times, the administration of anesthetics by registered nurses is reserved to those registered nurses who meet the requirements of R.S. 37:930.

The Board sees no conflict between the above interpretation of "emergency situation", "immediate emergency" in R.S. 37:929 and "emergencies" in R.S. 40:1299.54.

Your efforts to protect the health and welfare of consumers of health care are appreciated by the Board of Nursing.

Sincerely,



Sister Lucie Leonard, R.N.
Nursing Practice Consultant

SLL/vmp

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