

November 21, 1989

Sharye Hardesty, RN, Chairman  
Louisiana Red Cross Nursing Committee  
1523 St. Charles Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Ms. Hardesty:

At its meeting on November 16, 1989, the Board of Nursing adopted an opinion which is of interest to you. At the July meeting of the Board you had questioned the impact of an opinion regarding disaster staffing relief on the American Red Cross Disaster Nursing Services. The Board then decided to formulate a separate opinion to address your question. It is as follows:

.14

In reference to licensure for Red Cross Disaster Nursing Services:

INTERPRETATION OF L.R.S. 37:929, C

The term "immediate emergency" in L.R.S. 37:929, C, includes disasters as defined by the American Red Cross:

"A disaster is an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation wreck, or other situations that cause human suffering or create human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without substantial assistance."

In these situations, the American Red Cross registered nurses who hold unencumbered licenses in another state may provide nursing care in Louisiana.

If you have questions about this matter, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN  
Nursing Practice Consultant