

November 13, 1992

Sonja M. Travis, RN, BSN, CNA
Mental Health Nurse Director
DHH Office of Mental Health
Feliciana Forensic Facility
P.O. Box 888
Jackson, LA 70748

Dear Ms. Travis:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse executing orders of a licensed psychologist, as provided by Acts 120 and 321 of the 1992 Louisiana Legislature, was presented to the Board at its meeting on November 6, 1992.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied the information you sent, and the statutory definitions of the practice of nursing and the practice of psychology. In addition, the Committee requested a legal opinion from Sydney J. Parlongue, Esquire, the Board's Legal Counsel. At the November 6 meeting of the Board, the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to Agenda Item 4.1, a Louisiana registered nurse on duty may assist in the admission of a patient to a qualified facility pursuant to an emergency certificate signed by a Louisiana licensed psychologist. This authority is pursuant to the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statute 37:913 (3) (a), which provides among other things, that the practice of nursing includes "provision of care supportive to or restorative of life and well-being."

However, the above opinion excludes the execution of medical regimes which may be prescribed by a psychologist, as the registered nurse function of execution of medical regimes is limited to those regimes prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist.

The Board appreciated your presence at the meeting on August 7 when a preliminary discussion of this matter occurred.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

BLM:sll

npop92.14