

August 28, 1995

Patsy Powell, RN, CCRN
Clinical Manager, Surgical Intensive Care
Baton Rouge General Medical Center
3600 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Dear Ms. Powell:

Your request for an opinion of the Board of Nursing regarding a registered nurse turning off the ventilator on a patient who has been pronounced brain dead was presented to the Board at its August 24, 1995 meeting.

The Nursing Practice Committee studied your request and reviewed previous related opinions of the Board. The Committee then formulated a recommendation to the Board of Nursing. On August 24, 1995 the Committee presented its recommendation to the Board, and after due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item 5.1, there is nothing to prohibit the registered nurse from turning off the ventilator on a patient who is pronounced brain dead pursuant to written order signed by a physician in accordance with the current law.

If you have questions about this opinion, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN

Executive Director

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