

November 21, 1989

Deborah Carpenter, Nursing Consultant
VHA Gulf States
Affiliate of Voluntary Hospitals
of America System
2431 S. Acadian Thruway, Suite 540
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Ms. Carpenter:

This is to provide you with written confirmation of the action of the Board of Nursing on November 16, 1989, in response to your request for an exception to the licensure requirement for registered nurses from out-of-state who come into Louisiana to provide relief hospital staffing following disasters. After due deliberation by the Nursing Practice Committee and the Board of Nursing, the Board adopted the following opinion:

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In reference to Licensure for Disaster Relief in Hospitals:

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, registered nurses who hold unencumbered licenses in another state may provide nursing care in Louisiana if the following conditions are met:

1. Direct supervision (to include verification of current licensure) will be provided by a registered nurse currently licensed in Louisiana; and
2. The name and license number of the supervising nurse and of the nurses from out-of-state are provided to the Board of Nursing for verification the next working day.

Following a disaster, out-of-state nurses working in Louisiana longer than seven (7) days must file an application for licensure by endorsement. Exception to the seven-day limitation may be approved by the Executive Director, in accord with criteria established by the Board.

The Board members appreciated your input into their deliberation on this

matter.

Sincerely,

Sister Lucie Leonard, MSN, RN
Nursing Practice Consultant