

Adopted 8/27/93

August 30, 1993

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 specific issue being addressed at Feliciana Forensic Facility was referred to the Nursing Practice Committee for their study and formulation of a recommendation to the Board.

The Committee appreciated your presence and that of Norma Delatte at the July 26, 1993 meeting of the Committee. Your complex situation was more easily clarified in a face-to-face discussion. After their dialogue with you and a review of the relevant statutory and regulatory provisions, the Committee formulated a recommendation which was presented to the Board at its August 27, 1993 meeting. After due deliberation, the Board adopted the following opinion:

In reference to agenda item #4.8, the term "medical regimes" means any activities that require an order of a licensed physician or dentist as determined by the medical staff bylaws of the hospital would constitute a medical regime which means the registered nurse could not execute it if ordered by a psychologist.

You will recall that the Committee indicated that the RN's scope of practice in reference to the role expansion for the psychologists cannot be addressed until the medical staff develop protocols as to what they see are the psychologists' expanded role. The Committee also pointed out that the legislature did not give the psychologists medical prescriptive authority.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Morvant, MN, RN
Executive Director

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