

Nurse Practice Act Report

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In the state of North Dakota, there are multiple instances for grounds for discipline per the Board of Nursing's Nurse Practices Act, [NDCC 43-12.1-14](#). For any practicing nurse who holds a license of registration, the board may limit, deny, revoke, suspend, or encumber that license or registration if any of these instances occurs (North Dakota Legislative Branch, n.d.). The board may also place a licensee or registrant on probation or reprimand or discipline as necessary. This includes denying licensure or examination, requiring evidence that treatment or an evaluation has occurred, or issuing a letter of nondisciplinary concern (North Dakota Century Code, n.d.).

Grounds for Discipline

Per the ND Nurse Practices Act, grounds for discipline can include having been arrested, charged, or convicted in a court of law or has entered a plea of no contest to a crime that relates adversely to the practice of nursing in any jurisdiction. Additionally, that person has not demonstrated rehabilitation that is sufficient per the act's section [12.1-33-02.1](#). Grounds for discipline can also include having been disciplined by a board of nursing in another jurisdiction or if a license or registration of another health care occupation has been denied, suspended, or revoked (ND Century Code, n.d.).

Other grounds for discipline include if the individual has practiced inconsistently with the standards of nursing practice, or engaged in practice or other behavior that establishes professional misconduct. This can include the diversion or attempt to divert any supplies or equipment or drugs or controlled substances for personal gain or unauthorized use. If an individual has fraudulently or deceitfully obtained or attempted to obtain a license or registration or submitted any fraudulent or deceitful information to the board of nursing, the individual is also subject to grounds of discipline. Additionally, this includes if the individual has practiced or

assisted in practice without a current registration or license. The final two instances in which grounds for discipline apply include if the individual has failed to report any violation of the above mentioned rules or has failed to observe and follow the standards, policies, orders of the board, or directives adopted by the North Dakota Board of Nursing (ND BON) (ND Century Code, n.d.).

Registered Nurse Licensure Requirements

In the state of ND, individuals may apply for an RN license either by endorsement or by exam. Initial licensure requirements for endorsement in the state of ND for a registered nurse include having a United States social security number. The applicant must also have completed 400 hours of licensed nursing practice within the last four years. The applicant can also qualify instead of he/she has completed a nursing program within the last four years that prepared an individual for the level of licensure sought and included a supervised clinical experience across the lifespan as part of that program or a board approved refresher course within the last four years. Additionally, initial licensure requirements for an RN in ND include submitting proof of an initial licensure by examination with the examination, which must meet ND's requirements for licensure examination. If an individual's primary state of residence is a state other than ND and that state belongs to the Nurse Licensure Compact like ND, an applicant is not eligible for licensure in the state of ND, and the individual must apply for licensure under that state (ND BON, 2019b).

If an applicant has never held an RN license in ND, initial licensing also requires an official transcript with a posted degree from the completed program. A verification of licensure from the original state of license by exam is also required. The state of ND's initial RN

Endorsement Application must also be completed along with a criminal history record check including fingerprinting. An application fee also applies (ND BON, 2019b).

For individuals seeking first time licensure as an RN, the applicant follows the initial licensure by exam steps per the ND BON. This also requires a US social security number. The applicant must have also completed a nursing program that has prepared the individual for an RN license, and this program must be an in-state program approved by the ND BON or out-of-state program approved by another BON and meets the required supervised clinical hours like ND BON approved programs. Like with endorsement for licensure, if the applicant's primary state of residence is a compact state, the applicant is not eligible for licensure in ND and must apply in that state (ND BON, 2019c).

First time licensure applicants must also submit official transcripts and posted degree from the program completed. They must also complete a criminal history record check with fingerprinting. In addition, first time licensure applicants must register with NCLEX Candidate Services for testing and complete the initial online RN Exam Application. The applicant must pass the NCLEX in order for licensure to be granted (ND BON, 2019c).

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Requirements

Like with licensure for an RN, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) may apply for licensure in ND by either endorsement or exam per [NDAC 54-05-03.1-04](#). In comparison, for initial licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) in the state of ND, applicants must submit a current ND RN license, a current compact RN license in another compact state, or submit the initial RN License by Endorsement application if the applicant does not hold a ND RN license or RN license from another compact state. This license cannot be encumbered in any state or territory. The applicant must also submit proof of completing an accredited graduate

level APRN program in one of four roles with at least one population focus and requires the submission of official transcripts from that program. The applicant must also submit evidence of current certification from a national nursing body for the APRN role in a defined population (ND BON, 2019a).

As with an RN licensure application, a fee applies for the APRN license, and applicants are also required to submit an application, which for the APRN is the Initial Advanced Practice License with or without Prescriptive Authority. On that application, the scope of practice must be identified that matches the nursing education and certification the applicant has received. If the applicant has not completed a criminal history background check for the ND BON in the past 90 days, the applicant must complete one at the time of application for APRN licensure. Like with RN licensure, fingerprinting is required (ND BON, 2019a).

Another difference with the APRN licensure is that an APRN who wants to include prescriptive authority must apply for it. It is an additional fee, and it must be requested by the APRN by completing the applicable portion on the Initial Advanced Practice Licensure application. Specific requirements apply for prescriptive authority in addition to the application and fee. The applicant's completed transcript must include evidence of completing advanced pharmacology, physical assessment, and pathophysiology and provide further evidence of completing 30 contact hours of education or an equivalent of in pharmacotherapy related to the APRN's scope of practice within the three years prior to application or as otherwise approved by the ND BON. These certificates of completion must itemize pharmacology CEs and UpToDate activity certificates do not meet what is required (ND BON, 2019a).

References

- North Dakota Board of Nursing. (ND BON). (2019a). *Advanced practice licensure*. Retrieved February 15, 2020 from <https://www.ndbon.org/NurseLicensure/APRN/Index.asp>
- North Dakota Board of Nursing. (ND BON). (2019b). *Initial RN or LPN license by endorsement*. Retrieved February 15, 2020 from <https://www.ndbon.org/NurseLicensure/InitialEndorse/index.asp>
- North Dakota Board of Nursing. (ND BON). (2019c). *Initial RN or LPN license by exam*. Retrieved February 15, 2020 from <https://www.ndbon.org/NurseLicensure/InitialExam/index.asp>
- North Dakota Century Code for the Board of Nursing. (n.d.). 43-12.1 Nurse Practices Act. Retrieved February 14, 2020 from <https://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t43c12-1.pdf>