



California RN License Information

As the Director of Nursing at Emerald Health Services, I frequently hear from our travel nurses that they are concerned they will lose their RN license when hospitals are understaffed and/or the nurses feel the working conditions are unsafe.

According to the California Board of Registered Nursing (CA BRN) the following are violations of a California RN license that would result in disciplinary action:

- Incompetence or gross negligence
- Conviction of practicing medicine without a license
- Fraudulent advertising
- Disciplinary action by another state, government agency, or licensing board
- Unprofessional conduct, including but not limited to failure to report client abuse or holding out as a certified practitioner
- Procuring a certificate by fraud, misrepresentation or mistake
- Involvement in procurement of or assisting in criminal abortion
- Violating or abetting violation of any section of the Nurse Practice Act
- Furnishing false information on application for licensure
- Conviction of a felony or any offense substantially related to the qualification, functions and duties of a registered nurse
- Impersonating an applicant in an examination
- Impersonating another licensed practitioner or allowing another person to use his/her license to practice nursing
- Violating or assisting in the violation of the Medical Practice Act
- Holding oneself out as a nurse practitioner without meeting the BRN standards
- Except for good cause, knowingly failing to protect patients by failing to follow infection control guidelines, thereby risking transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases from licensed or certified nurse to patient, from patient to patient, and from patient to licensed or certified nurse.
- Illegally obtaining, possessing, or administering narcotics or dangerous drugs to self or others.
- Use of any narcotic, dangerous drug, or alcohol to the extent that it is dangerous to self or others, or the ability to practice nursing safely is impaired. (Abuse of drugs or alcohol)
- Criminal conviction related to drugs or alcohol
- Commitment/confinement by court for abuse of drugs or alcohol
- Falsifying and/or making grossly incorrect, grossly inconsistent, or unintelligible entries in any hospital, patient, or other record pertaining to controlled substances
- Incompetence/gross negligence by Nurse Practitioner in performing functions related to furnishing drugs or devices
- Display or possess invalid or fraudulent license
- Lending license to another person
- Displaying license not issued to self

- Failure or refusing to surrender license to the issuing authority upon its lawful demand any license, which has been suspended, revoked, or canceled.
- Knowingly permitting any unlawful use of a license issues to him/her
- Photographing, Photostatting, duplicating, or in any way reproducing any license or facsimile thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid license, or displaying or having in his/her possession any such photograph, Photostat, duplicate, reproduction. Or facsimile unless authorized by the provisions of this code
- Conspire with an unlicensed person to use license unlawfully
- Refusal to perform licensed activity
- Acts disqualifying applicant (e.g. conviction or a crime, any act involving dishonesty, fraud or deceit with the intent to substantially benefit himself or another, or substantially injure another
- False statement on application
- Disciplinary action or denial notwithstanding diversion program
- Record of convictions related to qualification, functions and duties of licensee
- Conduct with violates security of exam materials
- Secure a license by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation
- Sexual abuse, misconduct, or relations with a patient
- Present false insurance claims
- Prepare false insurance claims
- Inability to practice due to mental/physical illness

There is nothing in this list that states or suggests that the individual staff nurse is responsible for maintaining staffing ratios. Remember it is the hospital's duty, not the nurse's duty, to provide sufficient staff. You, as an individual licensed Registered Nurse, are responsible for your own actions. However, you are also responsible for keeping hospital management informed of any unsafe patient care situations.

Legally, as an employee, you are responsible for the following:

- Following the policies, procedures, rules and guidelines set by your employer (Emerald) and the hospital you are working at. This does NOT eliminate your independent nursing judgment or your accountability for decision-making.
- Keeping you skills, knowledge and competency current
- Reporting unsafe conditions
- Following the chain of command
- Adhering to your job description and licensure requirement

Resources:

<http://www.rn.ca.gov/enf/pdf/dispguide2002.pdf>

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<http://www.rn.ca.gov>