

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

PO Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100
P (916) 322-3350 F (916) 574-8637 | www.rn.ca.gov



GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (PHN) CERTIFICATION

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to Section 2818 (a) of the Business and Professions Code the Legislature recognizes that public health nursing is a service of crucial importance for the health, safety, and sanitation of the population in all of California's communities. These services currently include, but are not limited to:

- ♦ Control and prevention of communicable disease.
- ♦ Promotion of maternal, child, and adolescent health.
- ♦ Prevention of abuse and neglect of children, elders, and spouses.
- ♦ Outreach screening, case management, resource coordination and assessment, and delivery and evaluation of care for individuals, families, and communities.

In addition, Section 2818 (c) states that no individual shall hold himself or herself out as a public health nurse or use a title which includes the term "public health nurse" unless that individual is in possession of a valid California public health nurse certificate issued pursuant to this article.

I. GENERAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Public Health certification eligibility requires the possession of an active California registered nurse (RN) license (California Code of Regulations, Section 1491).

If you do not possess an active California RN license and have never applied for a California RN license, an Application for California RN Licensure by Endorsement/Examination must also be submitted. If you have had a permanent California RN license, you must either renew or reactivate the California RN license.

The Public Health Nurse Application fee is an earned fee; therefore, when an applicant is found ineligible the application fee will not be refunded. Processing times for certification may vary, depending on the receipt of required documentation. Processing a Public Health Nurse Certification application indicating prior disciplinary action(s) and/or voluntary surrender(s) may take longer. A pending application file is not a disclosable public record; therefore, an applicant must sign a release of information before the Board of Registered Nursing will release information relating to the PHN application to the public, including employers, relatives or other third parties. Once you are certified, your address of record must be disclosed to the public upon request.

II. NAME AND/OR ADDRESS CHANGES

California Code of Regulations, Section 1409.1 requires that you notify the Board of Registered Nursing of all names and address changes within thirty (30) days of any change. You may call the Board of Registered Nursing regarding the change of address of record. If you have changed your name, please submit a letter of explanation along with legal documentation of the name change to the Board. Examples of acceptable forms of legal documentation are birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce decree and/or court documents, social security card or passport. A copy of a driver's license is not acceptable.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – (continued)

III. U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER & TAX INFORMATION

Disclosure of your U.S. Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number is mandatory. Section 30 of the Business and Professions Code and Public Law 94-455 (42 USCA 405 (c)(2)(C)) authorize collection of your U.S. Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. Your U.S. Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number will be used exclusively for tax enforcement purposes, for purposes of compliance with any judgment or order for family support in accordance with Section 11350.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, or for verification of licensure, certification or examination status by a licensing or examination entity which utilizes a national examination where licensure is reciprocal with the requesting state. **If you fail to disclose your U.S. Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, your application for initial or renewal license/certification will not be processed.** You will also be reported to the Franchise Tax Board, which may assess a \$100 penalty against you. Questions regarding the Franchise Tax Board should be directed to (800) 852-5711.

ALERT: Effective July 1, 2012, the Board of Registered Nursing is required to deny an application for licensure and to suspend the license/certificate/registration of any applicant or licensee who has outstanding tax obligations due to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) or the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and appears on either the FTB or BOE's certified lists of top 500 tax delinquencies over \$100,000. (AB 1424, Perea, Chapter 455, Statutes of 2011).

IV. REPORTING PRIOR DISCIPLINE AGAINST LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

All disciplinary action against an applicant's public health nurse, registered nurse, practical nurse, vocational nurse or other health care related license or certificate must be reported.

Failure to report prior convictions or disciplinary action is considered falsification of application and is grounds for denial of licensure/certification or revocation of license/certificate.

When reporting prior disciplinary action, **applicants are required to provide a full written explanation of:** circumstances surrounding the disciplinary action(s) and the date of or disciplinary action(s). For disciplinary proceedings against any license as a RN or any health-care related license; include copies of state board determinations/decisions, citations and letters of reprimand.

To make a determination in these cases, the Board considers the nature and severity of the offense, additional subsequent acts, recency of acts or crimes, compliance with court sanctions, and evidence of rehabilitation.

The burden of proof lies with the applicant to demonstrate acceptable documented evidence of rehabilitation. Examples of rehabilitation evidence include, but are not be limited to:

- Recent, dated letter from applicant describing the event and rehabilitative efforts or changes in life to prevent future problems or occurrences.
- Recent and signed letters of reference on official letterhead from employers, nursing instructors, health professionals, professional counselors, parole or probation officers, Support Group Facilitators or sponsors, or other individuals in positions of authority who are knowledgeable about your rehabilitation efforts.
- Letters from recognized recovery programs and/or counselors attesting to current sobriety and length of time of sobriety, if there is a history of alcohol or drug abuse.
- Submit copies of recent work evaluations.
- Proof of community work, schooling, self-improvement efforts.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS – (continued)

All of the above items should be mailed **directly** to the Board by the individual(s) or agency that is providing information about the applicant. Have these items sent to the Board of Registered Nursing, Advanced Practice Unit – Public Health Nurse Certification (PHN), P.O. Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide sufficient rehabilitation evidence on a timely basis so that a certification determination can be made.

An applicant is also required to immediately report, in writing, to the Board any disciplinary action(s) which occur between the date the application was filed and the date that a California Public Health certificate is issued. Failure to report this information is grounds for denial of licensure or revocation of license/certificate.

NOTE: The application must be completed and signed by the applicant under the penalty of perjury.

V. BOARD ADDRESS & WEB SITE INFORMATION

Mailing Address: Advanced Practice Unit – PHN Certification
Board of Registered Nursing
P.O. Box 944210
Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

Street Address for overnight or in-person delivery:

Advanced Practice Unit – PHN Certification
Board of Registered Nursing
1747 N. Market Blvd., Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834-1924

Web Site: www.rn.ca.gov

VI. CALIFORNIA NURSING PRACTICE ACT

California statutes and regulations pertaining to Registered Nurses/Public Health Nurses may be obtained by accessing the Board of Registered Nursing web site at www.rn.ca.gov

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (PHN) CERTIFICATION

METHOD A

Possession of a baccalaureate or entry-level master's degree in nursing from a nursing school accredited by the National League of Nursing (NLN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) which includes coursework in public health nursing, including a minimum of 90 hours of supervised clinical experience in a public health setting(s).

Documentation submitted directly to the Board of Registered Nursing:

1. Completed **Public Health Nurse (PHN) Certification** and applicable fee.
2. Request for Transcript form completed by the baccalaureate, entry-level master's or master's academic program. (Page 8)

(NOTE: All out-of-state graduates must have the shaded verification section completed by the academic program.)

3. Official transcripts for the completed baccalaureate program, entry-level master's program or master's program submitted by the academic program.
4. Verification of training in the detection, prevention, reporting requirements and treatment of child neglect and abuse which shall be at least 7 hours in length and shall include but not limited to prevention techniques, early detection techniques, California reporting requirements and intervention techniques completed in a baccalaureate or specialized program in nursing or a course approved for continuing education (CE) by the Board of Registered Nursing. The course must include coverage of the **California Reporting Law** requirements per Section 11166.5 of the California Penal Code.

(NOTE: California BSN graduates prior to 1981, must take the 7 hour child abuse/neglect prevention training course approved by the Board of Registered Nursing.

5. Course descriptions for the completed baccalaureate program, entry-level master's program or master's program. The course descriptions must be for the period of time you attended the program. **(This does not apply to California graduates)**

METHOD B

Possession of a baccalaureate or entry-level master's degree in nursing from a nursing school which has not been NLN or CCNE accredited which includes course work in public health nursing and includes a minimum of 90 hours of supervised clinical experience in a public health setting(s).

Documentation submitted directly to the Board of Registered Nursing:

1. Completed **Public Health Nurse (PHN) Certification** and applicable fee.
2. Request for Transcript form completed by the baccalaureate, entry-level master's or master's academic program. (Page 8)
3. Official transcripts for the completed baccalaureate program, entry-level master's program or master's program submitted by the academic program.
4. Verification of training in the detection, prevention, reporting requirements and treatment of child neglect and abuse which shall be at least 7 hours in length and shall include but not limited to prevention techniques, early detection techniques, California reporting requirements and intervention techniques completed in a baccalaureate or specialized program in nursing or a course approved for continuing education (CE) by the Board of Registered Nursing. The course must include coverage of the **California Reporting Law** requirements per Section 11166.5 of the California Penal Code.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (PHN) CERTIFICATION (CONT'D)

5. Course descriptions for the completed baccalaureate program, entry-level master's program or master's program. The course descriptions must be for the period of time you attended the program.

METHOD C

Possession of a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing and completion of a specialized public health nursing program that includes a minimum of 90 hours of supervised clinical experience in a public health setting(s) associated with a baccalaureate school of nursing accredited by NLN or CCNE. Work experience is not acceptable.

Documentation submitted directly to the Board of Registered Nursing:

1. Completed **Public Health Nurse (PHN) Certification** and applicable fee.
2. Request for Transcript form completed by the baccalaureate or master's academic program. (Page 8)
3. Official transcripts for the completed baccalaureate program or master's program submitted by the academic program.
4. Verification of training in the detection, prevention, reporting requirements and treatment of child neglect and abuse which shall be at least 7 hours in length and shall include but not limited to prevention techniques, early detection techniques, California reporting requirements and intervention techniques completed in a baccalaureate or specialized program in nursing or a course approved for continuing education (CE) by the Board of Registered Nursing. The course must include coverage of the **California Reporting Law** requirements per Section 11166.5 of the California Penal Code.
5. Course descriptions for the completed baccalaureate program or master's program. The course descriptions must be for the period of time you attended the program.

**PLEASE REFER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE APPLICATION PROCESS
TO THE ADVANCED PRACTICE UNIT IN SACRAMENTO AT (916) 322-3350.**

VII. HONORABLY DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES RECEIVE EXPEDITED REVIEW

Notwithstanding any other law, on and after July 1, 2016, a board within the department shall expedite, and may assist, the initial licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that the applicant has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged (Business and Professions Code section 115.4.).

If you would like to be considered for this expedited review and process, please provide the following documentation with your application:

1. Report of Separation form.

The report of separation form issued in most recent years is the **DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty**. Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD and the NAVCG 553.

Information shown on the Report of Separation may include the service member's date and place of entry into active duty, date and place of release from active duty, last duty assignment and rank, military job specialty, military education, total creditable service, separation information, etc.

VIII. EXPEDITED LICENSURE PROCESS FOR REFUGEES, ASYLEES, AND HOLDERS OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANTS VISA (SIVS)

California statutes and regulations pertaining to Registered Nurses/Nurse Practitioners may be obtained by accessing the Board of Registered Nursing web site at www.rn.ca.gov

Individuals seeking an expedited licensure process as required by Business and Professions Code section 135.4. Beginning January 1, 2021, individuals in the following categories may have their applications expedited:

1. Refugees pursuant to section 1157 of title 8 of the United States Code;
2. Those granted asylum by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to section 1158 of title 8 of the United States Code; or,
3. Individuals with a special immigrant visa that have been granted a status pursuant to section 1244 of Public Law 110-181, Public Law 109-163, or section 602(b) of title VI of division F of Public Law 111-8.

In order to receive the expedited licensure process, individuals must provide evidence of their refugee, asylee, or special immigrant visa status when submitting their application package. Documentation below are examples that can be used:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, with an admission class code such as “RE” (Refugee) or “AY” (Asylee) or other information designating the person a refugee or asylee.
- Special immigrant visa that includes the classification codes of “SI” or “SQ.”
- Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), commonly known as a “Green Card,” with a category designation indicating that the person was admitted as a refugee or asylee.
- An order from a court of competent jurisdiction or other documentary evidence that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant qualifies for expedited licensure.

Failure to provide documentation may result in a delay in expediting the application review.

Please note that this does not mean a license/registration must be issued, but simply that the process will be expedited.



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INFORMATION COLLECTION AND ACCESS

The Information Practices Act, Section 1798.17 Civil Code, requires the following information to be provided when collecting information from individuals.

Agency Name:		BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING	
Title of official responsible for information maintenance:		EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
Address:	Telephone Number:		
P.O. BOX 944210, SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2100	(916) 322-3350		
Authority which authorizes the maintenance of the information:			
SECTION 30, SECTION 2732.1(a), BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE			
ALL INFORMATION IS MANDATORY.			
The consequences, if any of not providing all or any part of the requested information:			
FAILURE TO PROVIDE ANY OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE APPLICATION BEING REJECTED AS INCOMPLETE.			
The principal purpose(s) for which the information is to be used:			
TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSURE. YOUR U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER WILL BE USED FOR PURPOSES OF TAX ENFORCEMENT, CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND VERIFICATION OF LICENSURE AND EXAMINATION STATUS. SECTION 30 OF THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE AND PUBLIC LAW 94-455 (42 USCA 405(c)(2)(C)) AUTHORIZE COLLECTION OF YOUR U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. IF YOU FAIL TO DISCLOSE YOUR U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, YOU WILL BE REPORTED TO THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD, WHICH MAY ASSESS A \$100 PENALTY AGAINST YOU. YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS LISTED ON THIS APPLICATION WILL BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST IF AND WHEN YOU BECOME LICENSED.			
Any known or foreseeable interagency or intergovernmental transfer which may be made of the information:			
POSSIBLE TRANSFER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND REPORTING U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER TO THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD OR FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 30 OF THE BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE.			
EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS THE RIGHT TO REVIEW THE FILES ON RECORDS MAINTAINED ON THEM BY THE AGENCY, UNLESS THE RECORDS ARE EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE.			

MANDATORY REPORTER

Under California law each person licensed by the Board of Registered Nursing is a “Mandated Reporter” for child abuse or neglect purposes. Prior to commencing his or her employment, and as a prerequisite to that employment, all mandated reporters must sign a statement on a form provided to him or her by his or her employer to the effect that he or she has knowledge of the provisions of Section 11166 and will comply with those provisions.

California Penal Code Section 11166 requires that all mandated reporters make a report to an agency specified in Penal Code Section 11165.9 [generally law enforcement agencies] whenever the mandated reporter, in his or her professional capacity or within the scope of his or her employment, has knowledge of or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect. The mandated reporter must make a report to the agency immediately or as soon as is practicably possible by telephone, and the mandated reporter must prepare and send a written report thereof within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident.

Failure to comply with the requirements of Section 11166 is a misdemeanor, punishable by up to six months in a county jail, by a fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both imprisonment and fine.

For further details about these requirements, consult Penal Code Section 11164, and subsequent sections.