

Board Member Responsibility and Accountability

The Minnesota Board of Nursing is committed to public protection through excellence in nursing regulation. Thus, the Board adheres to a set of behavioral expectations intended to assure the public that the Board and its individual members uphold the highest level of integrity and ethical standards. The following principles provide the foundation for assuring public trust in the regulation of nursing practice and education in Minnesota.

- The mission of the Minnesota Board of Nursing is to ensure that the public will have access to competent, safe, and ethical practitioners in the profession.
- A major function of board members is to create policy, articulate the mission, and sustain the vision of the Board; to govern rather than to manage.
- Members of the Minnesota Board of Nursing must familiarize themselves with the laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures that govern their service on the Board.
- The work of the Minnesota Board of Nursing is public service, not private interest or group advocacy.
- It is essential for each board member to represent the public; that is, all of the people.
- Board members must strive to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest that may compromise the integrity of the Board.
- Board members must strive to avoid any relationship, activity or position that may influence, directly or indirectly, the performance of his or her official duties as a board member.

Therefore, each member of the Board of Nursing assumes personal responsibility and accountability to:

- Be knowledgeable of and uphold the Minnesota Nurse Practice Act.
- Be informed about the Board's mission, functions, policies, and programs.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the purpose, philosophy, strategic plan and goals of the Board.
- Comply with all applicable laws.
- Review and make decisions on all issues presented to the Board regarding the regulation of nursing practice and education from the perspective of protection of the public.
- Support majority decisions of the Board to peers and public regardless of personal opinion.
- Avoid advising and/or conferring with those licensees and/or their legal counsel who have been served a Notice of Conference, subpoena, or inquiry letter.
- Participate on discipline Review Panels.

- Serve on committees or task forces as appointed.
- Arrive on time and attend all board and committee meetings and functions.
- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Demonstrate mutual respect and support for each other and the staff in all board-related activities.
- Maintain confidentiality of confidential documents, information and general board materials.
- Reveal actual or perceived conflicts of interest and recuse oneself from board decision making when appropriate.
- Speak or act for the Board with appropriate authorization.
- Assist the Board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the financial statements and review and approve the biennial and special appropriations request to the legislature.
- Recognize the Board's role to make policy and staff's role to implement policy as adopted by the Board.