



FAQ

Registration Cards No Longer Issued

In January 2012 the Board posted a notice that it will discontinue issuing registration certificates upon renewal of license, effective June 1, 2012. Thank you to the many nurses who sent emails acknowledging this change. The vast majority of responses to this notice have been positive but some individuals did raise relevant concerns and questions. The purpose of this FAQ is to address the concerns raised.

Notice to renew: We received questions regarding the certificates use as “notice” of renewal such as “Will I still be notified of pending renewals by email?” or “If I don’t have my registration card how will I know it is time to renew?” The Board notifies all eligible licensees three months prior to their renewal deadline. The Board will continue to send postcard notification to all licensees and those nurses who have provided us with an email address will receive an email notification in addition to the postcard notification.

Renewal fee: A few people asked if there would be a decrease in the renewal fee because of this change. No, the fee will remain at \$85.00 for a two year registration period. The Board has not raised the renewal fee since 2001. Even though costs have increased such as postage and paper, the Board has continued to make use of new technologies to keep costs down. Using the on-line verification system to verify a license status is another way to use technology to reduce costs so it is not necessary to raise fees.

Registration card as identification: This seems to be the most popular question and came in many forms: “How do I show identification as a nurse when I apply for a job?” or “What about an emergency or natural disaster, how will I present identification as a nurse?” or “Some businesses offer discounts for nurses and all they require is to see the registration card.” The registration card was not proof of licensure and in fact, if you turn over your current card you will see the following statement:

This card should not be relied upon as proof of licensure. Verification must be obtained from the Board’s website at: www.nursingboard.state.mn.us

Anyone can verify a nurse’s license by going to the Board’s website; click on the [Verify a License](#), tab, click on the [Online Verification](#) page link and follow the instructions to search by license number or name. Once you have located the nurse’s information you can print a copy for your records. You could provide this paper copy in the event of an emergency, natural disaster or to obtain discounts if offered.

Lastly some licensees asked who made this decision. The Board of Directors approved the recommendation to discontinue issuing registration cards in 2011. It was a difficult decision because the board is aware that some licensees are fond of registration cards, however, this change will compel employers to use the Board’s online verification system and decrease the possibility of fraud.

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