



CHAPTER 90
ARTICLE 9A - NURSING PRACTICE ACT

N.C.G.S. § 90-171.43.

License required; rules.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2019-180, s. 12 — fourth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 05:11 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 3e8685c6ff0c04db52a6e834 - 25caa429fbb8448961167c7c - 7fd16f18d200bd4b
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- § 90-171.43(a) No person shall practice or offer to practice as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, or use the word "nurse" as a title for herself or himself, or use an abbreviation to indicate that the person is a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, unless the person is currently licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse as provided by this Article. If the word "nurse" is part of a longer title, such as "nurse's aide", a person who is entitled to use that title shall use the entire title and may not abbreviate the title to "nurse". This Article shall not, however, be construed to prohibit or limit the following:
- (1) The performance by any person of any act for which that person holds a license issued pursuant to North Carolina law;
 - (2) The clinical practice by students enrolled in approved nursing programs, continuing education programs, or refresher courses under the supervision of qualified faculty;
 - (3) The performance of nursing performed by persons who hold a temporary license issued pursuant to G.S. 90-171.33;
 - (4) The delegation to any person, including a member of the patient's family, by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, a licensed dentist or registered nurse of those patient-care services which are routine, repetitive, limited in scope that do not require the professional judgment of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse; [or]
 - (5) Assistance by any person in the case of emergency.

Any person permitted to practice nursing without a license as provided in subdivision [(a)](2) or [(a)](3) of this section shall be held to the same standard of care as any licensed nurse.

§ 90-171.43(b) The Board shall have the authority to promulgate rules to enforce the provisions of this section.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
4 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

1981		2000		2019
TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR		DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT		
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER	
01	1981	c. 360, s. 1	ENACTED	
02	1993	c. 198, s. 9	AMENDED	
03	1999	S.L. 1999-320, s. 2	AMENDED	
04	2019	S.L. 2019-180, s. 12	AMENDED	

APPARATUS II
1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 90-171.33	(a)(3)	"a temporary license issued pursuant to"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-171.43 (2019).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-171.43(a) (2019).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1981, c. 360, s. 1; 1993, c. 198, s. 9; 1999-320, s. 2; 2019-180, s. 12.)

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