

Professional Licensing Agency
402 West Washington Street
Room W072
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor of Indiana
Lindsay M. Hyer
IPLA Executive Director

July 13, 2023

RE: ISBN Requirements for Forensic Nurses

Indiana Senate Bill 7 added Section 35 to Indiana Code Section 25, the statutory title which regulates the nursing profession. It placed certain requirements on those wishing to practice as forensic nurses. This statement is meant to provide guidance to those working as forensic nurses after June 30, 2023 – the effective date provided in the statute for Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”) related requirements to practicing as a forensic nurse.

Specifically, Indiana Code 25-23-1-35 requires those wishing to practice as forensic nurses to:

1. Be a registered nurse;
2. Complete a biennial forensic nursing educational program as defined in the statute; and
3. Submit a certificate of completion for that educational program to the Board.

Section 35 also requires the Board to determine criteria for biennial continuing education for forensic nurses, and for nurses to meet those continuing education requirements.

The Statute placed a June 30, 2023 effective date for the Board to promulgate rules relating to forensic nurse continuing education. However, at this time, the rules have not been fully promulgated. As the license renewal period for registered nurses begins on July 31, 2023, the rules will not be in place to add specific continuing education requirements for the 2023 renewal cycle.

As such, it is the position of the Board that a forensic nurse may continue to practice so long as they: (1) are a registered nurse, and (2) have completed a biennial forensic nurse program as defined in Indiana Code 25-23-1-35(a)(2)(A). For the 2023 registered nurse renewal cycle, there will be NO requirement to complete continuing education for forensic nursing and provide proof to the Board. Until further notice, there will also be NO requirement that nurses submit proof of completion of a forensic nurse educational program to the Board.¹ Those who wish to practice as forensic nurses may be subject to additional requirements by their employers.

Sincerely,

Board Director
Indiana State Board of Nursing

¹This does not negate the requirement to complete a forensic nursing educational program as required by Ind. Code 25-23-1-35(2). It simply means that the nurse is not required to provide proof of completion to the Board at this time.