

## **LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR R.N. LICENSURE**

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Individuals considering enrollment in a nursing program should consult the Kansas Nurse Practice Act (KSA 65-1120) for information regarding possible licensure disqualification.

The Kansas State Board of Nursing may deny, revoke, limit or suspend a nursing license for the following reasons: fraud or deceit in practicing nursing or in procuring a license; holding a felony conviction or misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense unless the applicant establishes sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the public trust; have committed an act of professional incompetency; being unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol; being adjudged in need of a guardian or conservator; found guilty of unprofessional conduct; having violated the provisions of the Kansas Nurse Practice Act including KSA 65-1114 and 65-1122; having action taken against a nursing license in another state; and others noted in KSA 65-1120.

When applying to the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) for NCLEX-RN examination and licensure as a Registered Nurse, the applicant is required to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check and also report misdemeanor and felony convictions and disciplinary actions. Certified legal/court documents must be supplied. The KSBN will conduct an investigation and make an individual decision regarding legal eligibility for licensure. This determination will not be made prior to application to KSBN for licensure.

Reportable convictions include the following (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- All felonies
- The following categories of misdemeanors:
  - Alcohol
  - All drugs
  - Endangerment of a child or vulnerable adult
  - Physical, emotional, financial, or sexual exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult
  - Theft
  - Physical or verbal abuse
  - Battery
  - Deceit
  - Dishonesty
  - Falsification
  - Fraud
  - Misrepresentation
  - Violation of a protection from abuse order or protection from stalking order
  - Any action arising out of a violation of any state or federal regulation

The Kansas Nurse Practice Act states that no person who has been convicted of a felony against persons (as specified in article 34 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated and amendments) shall be granted a license to practice nursing in the state of Kansas.

For more information on legal disclosure to the Kansas State Board of Nursing, visit their website at <https://ksbn.kansas.gov> or contact their Legal Department. Please note that KSBN staff are not attorneys and cannot give legal advice. If you have concerns regarding your eligibility for licensure prior to starting a nursing program, you will need to consult your own attorney.

Other state boards of nursing also set forth legal limitations for RN licensure. Please consult the state board in question regarding specific legal limitations.

Note: Admission to the Hesston College BSN program does not guarantee eligibility to test for a nursing license if a person's past record includes any of the situations listed above. The state board of nursing has final authority in determining whether an RN license will be granted upon successful completion of licensure testing and the application process.

You need to be aware of how legal issues may impact your potential RN licensure. Please contact the Hesston College Director of Nursing Education if you would like to discuss concerns or questions about how this relates to your future practice.