2026

STATE OF NEBRASKA

STATUTES RELATING TO
NURSE PRACTITIONER PRACTICE ACT

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Licensure Unit

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38-2301. Act, how cited.
Sections 38-2301 to 38-2324 shall be known and may be cited as the Nurse Practitioner Practice Act.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 1; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 11; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 47; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1704; Laws 2007, LB463, § 793; Laws 2012, LB1042, § 1; Laws 2015, LB107, § 2.

38-2302. Definitions, where found.
For purposes of the Nurse Practitioner Practice Act and elsewhere in the Uniform Credentialing Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions found in sections 38-2303 to 38-2314.01 apply.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 3; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 3; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 70; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 13; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 28; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 48; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1706; Laws 2007, LB463, § 794; Laws 2015, LB107, § 3.

38-2303. Approved certification program, defined.
Approved certification program means a certification process for nurse practitioners utilized by an approved certifying body that (1) requires evidence of completion of a formal program of study in the nurse practitioner clinical specialty, (2) requires successful completion of a nationally recognized certification examination developed by the approved certifying body, (3) provides an ongoing recertification program, and (4) is approved by the board.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 7; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 20; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 38; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 53; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1716.02; Laws 2007, LB463, § 795.

38-2304. Approved certifying body, defined.
Approved certifying body means a national certification organization which certifies qualified licensed nurses for advanced practice in a clinical specialty area and which (1) requires eligibility criteria related to education and practice, (2) offers an examination in an advanced nursing area which meets current psychometric guidelines and tests, and (3) is approved by the board.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 19; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 37; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-1716.01; Laws 2007, LB463, § 796.

38-2305. Approved nurse practitioner program, defined.
Approved nurse practitioner program means a program which:
(1) Is a graduate-level program accredited by a national accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education;
(2) Includes, but is not limited to, instruction in biological, behavioral, and health sciences relevant to practice as a nurse practitioner in a specific clinical area; and
(3) For the specialties of women's health and neonatal, grants a post-master certificate, master's degree, or doctoral degree for all applicants who graduated on or after July 1, 2007, and for all other specialties, grants a post-master certificate, master's degree, or doctoral degree for all applicants who graduated on or after July 19, 1996.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 14; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 12; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 67; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 22; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 41; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 56; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1717; Laws 2007, LB463, § 797; Laws 2017, LB88, § 75.

38-2306. Board, defined.
Board means the Board of Nursing.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 15; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 30; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-1708; Laws 2007, LB463, § 798; Laws 2025, LB346, § 19; Laws 2026, LB905, § 15.
Operative Date: July 1, 2026

38-2307. Repealed. Laws 2025, LB346, § 73.

38-2308. Collaboration, defined.
Collaboration means a process and relationship in which a nurse practitioner, together with other health professionals, delivers health care within the scope of authority of the various clinical specialty practices.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 13; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 11; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 18; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 36; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 52; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1716; Laws 2007, LB463, § 800.

38-2309. Consultation, defined.
Consultation means a process whereby a nurse practitioner seeks the advice or opinion of a physician or another health care practitioner.
Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 23; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 32; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 50; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1709.02; Laws 2007, LB463, § 801.

38-2310. Transferred to section 38-2314.01.

38-2311. Licensed practitioner, defined.
Licensed practitioner means any podiatrist, dentist, physician, or osteopathic physician licensed to prescribe, diagnose, and treat as provided in the Uniform Credentialing Act.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 9; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 34; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-1712; Laws 2007, LB463, § 803.

38-2312. Nurse practitioner, defined.
Nurse practitioner means a registered nurse certified as described in section 38-2317 and licensed under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act to practice as a nurse practitioner.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 4; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 14; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 29; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 49; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1707; Laws 2007, LB185, § 5; Laws 2007, LB463, § 804.

Cross References
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act,** see section 38-201.

38-2313. Preceptorship, defined.
Preceptorship means the clinical practice component of an educational program for the preparation of nurse practitioners.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 11; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 17; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 35; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 51; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1714; Laws 2007, LB463, § 805.

38-2314. Referral, defined.
Referral means a process whereby a nurse practitioner directs the patient to a physician or other health care practitioner for management of a particular problem or aspect of the patient's care.
Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 24; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 40; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 55; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1716.05; Laws 2007, LB463, § 806.

38-2314.01. Transition-to-practice agreement, defined.
Transition-to-practice agreement means a collaborative agreement for two thousand hours of initial practice between a nurse practitioner and a supervising provider which provides for the delivery of health care through a collaborative practice and which meets the requirements of section 38-2322.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 9; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 21; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 39; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 54; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1716.03; Laws 2007, LB463, § 802; R.S.1943, (2008), § 38-2310; Laws 2015, LB107, § 4; Laws 2017, LB88, § 76.

38-2315. Nurse practitioner; functions; scope.
(1) A nurse practitioner may provide health care services within specialty areas. A nurse practitioner shall function by establishing collaborative, consultative, and referral networks as appropriate with other health care professionals. Patients who require care beyond the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner shall be referred to an appropriate health care provider.
(2) Nurse practitioner practice means health promotion, health supervision, illness prevention and diagnosis, treatment, and management of common health problems and acute and chronic conditions, including:
(a) Assessing patients, ordering diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments, synthesizing and analyzing data, and applying advanced nursing principles;
(b) Dispensing, incident to practice only, sample medications which are provided by the manufacturer and are provided at no charge to the patient; and
(c) Prescribing therapeutic measures and medications relating to health conditions within the scope of practice.
(3) A nurse practitioner who has proof of a current certification from an approved certification program in a psychiatric or mental health specialty may manage the care of patients committed under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act. Patients who require care beyond the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner, who has

proof of a current certification from an approved certification program in a psychiatric or mental health specialty, shall be referred to an appropriate health care provider.
(4) A nurse practitioner may pronounce death and may complete and sign death certificates and any other forms if such acts are within the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner and are not otherwise prohibited by law.
(5) A nurse practitioner may perform and utilize fluoroscopy for procedural guidance and for the performance of authorized duties upon the nurse practitioner's successful completion of appropriate education and training as approved jointly by the department and the board. Such education and training shall be in accordance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated pursuant to section 71-3508. A nurse practitioner may also direct fluoroscopy in collaboration with a licensed medical radiographer.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 18; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 14; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 25; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 44; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 57; Laws 2006, LB 994, § 96; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1721; Laws 2007, LB463, § 807; Laws 2012, LB1042, § 2; Laws 2013, LB243, § 1; Laws 2015, LB107, § 5; Laws 2026, LB912, § 16.
Operative Date: July 18, 2026

Cross References

- **Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act,** see section 71-901.

38-2316. Unlicensed person; acts permitted.
The Nurse Practitioner Practice Act does not prohibit the performance of activities of a nurse practitioner by a person who does not have a license or temporary license under the act if performed:
(1) In an emergency situation;
(2) By a legally qualified person from another state employed by the United States Government and performing official duties in this state; or
(3) By a person enrolled in an approved nurse practitioner program for the preparation of nurse practitioners as part of that approved program.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 25; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 40; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 58; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 71; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1726.01; Laws 2007, LB185, § 12; Laws 2007, LB463, § 808; Laws 2017, LB88, § 77.

38-2317. Nurse practitioner; licensure; requirements.
(1) An applicant for licensure under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act to practice as a nurse practitioner shall have:
(a) A license as a registered nurse in the State of Nebraska or the authority based upon the Nurse Licensure Compact to practice as a registered nurse in Nebraska;
(b) Evidence of having successfully completed a graduate-level program in the clinical specialty area of nurse practitioner practice, which program is accredited by a national accrediting body;
(c) Proof of having passed an examination pertaining to the specific nurse practitioner role in nursing adopted or approved by the board with the approval of the department. Such examination may include any recognized national credentialing examination for nurse practitioners conducted by an approved certifying body which administers an approved certification program; and
(d) Evidence of completion of two thousand hours of practice as a nurse practitioner which have been completed under a transition-to-practice agreement, under a collaborative agreement, under an integrated practice agreement, through independent practice, or under any combination of such agreements and practice, as allowed in this state or another state.
(2) If more than five years have elapsed since the completion of the nurse practitioner program or since the applicant has practiced in the specific nurse practitioner role, the applicant shall meet the requirements in subsection (1) of this section and provide evidence of continuing competency as required by the board.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 19; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 20; Laws 1986, LB 926, § 55; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 70; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 30; Laws 1997, LB 752, § 173; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 46; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 57; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 101; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 59; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1722; Laws 2007, LB185, § 6; Laws 2007, LB463, § 809; Laws 2017, LB88, § 78.

Cross References

- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Act,** see section 38-201.
- **Credentialing,** general requirements and issuance procedures, see section 38-121 et seq.
- **Nurse Licensure Compact,** see sections 71-1795 to 71-1795.02.

38-2318. Nurse practitioner; temporary license; requirements; military spouse; temporary license.
(1)(a) The department may grant a temporary license to practice as a nurse practitioner for up to one hundred twenty days upon application:

(i) To graduates of an approved nurse practitioner program pending results of the first credentialing examination following graduation;
(ii) To a nurse practitioner lawfully authorized to practice in another state pending completion of the application for a Nebraska license; and
(iii) To applicants for purposes of a reentry program or supervised practice as part of continuing competency activities established by the board.
(b) A temporary license issued pursuant to this subsection may be extended for up to one year with the approval of the board.
(2) An applicant who is a military spouse may apply for a temporary license as provided in section 38-129.01.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 22; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 72; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 37; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 53; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 59; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 66; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1724.01; Laws 2007, LB185, § 11; Laws 2007, LB463, § 810; Laws 2017, LB88, § 79.

38-2319. Nurse practitioner; license; renewal; requirements.
To renew a license to practice as a nurse practitioner, the applicant shall have:
(1) Documentation of a minimum of two thousand eighty hours of practice as a nurse practitioner within the five years immediately preceding renewal. These practice hours shall fulfill the requirements of the practice hours required for registered nurse renewal. Practice hours as an advanced practice registered nurse prior to July 1, 2007, shall be used to fulfill the requirements of this section; and
(2) Proof of current certification in the specific nurse practitioner clinical specialty area by an approved certification program.
Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 21; Laws 1983, LB 472, § 6; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 21; Laws 1986, LB 926, § 56; Laws 1988, LB 1100, § 105; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 71; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 36; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 52; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 58; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 103; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 65; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1724; Laws 2007, LB185, § 10; Laws 2007, LB463, § 811.

38-2320. Nurse practitioner; liability insurance; when required.
(1) Nurse practitioners shall maintain in effect professional liability insurance with such coverage and limits as may be established by the board.
(2) If a nurse practitioner renders services in a hospital or other health care facility, he or she shall be subject to the rules and regulations of that facility. Such rules and regulations may include, but need not be limited to, reasonable requirements that the nurse practitioner and all collaborating licensed practitioners maintain professional liability insurance with such coverage and limits as may be established by the hospital or other health care facility upon the recommendation of the medical staff.
Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 35; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 51; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 64; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1723.04; Laws 2007, LB463, § 812.

38-2321. Nurse practitioner; right to use title or abbreviation.
A person licensed to practice as a nurse practitioner in this state may use the title nurse practitioner and the abbreviation NP.
Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 27; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 32; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 48; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 61; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1723.01; Laws 2007, LB185, § 8; Laws 2007, LB463, § 813.

38-2322. Nurse practitioner; licensed on or before August 30, 2015; requirements; transition-to-practice agreement; contents.
(1)(a) A transition-to-practice agreement shall be a formal written agreement that provides that the nurse practitioner and the supervising provider practice collaboratively within the framework of their respective scopes of practice.
(b) The nurse practitioner and the supervising provider shall each be responsible for his or her individual decisions in managing the health care of patients through consultation, collaboration, and referral. The nurse practitioner and the supervising provider shall have joint responsibility for the delivery of health care to a patient based upon the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner and the supervising provider.
(c) The supervising provider shall be responsible for supervision of the nurse practitioner to ensure the quality of health care provided to patients.
(d) In order for a nurse practitioner to be a supervising provider for purposes of a transition-to-practice agreement, the nurse practitioner shall submit to the department evidence of completion of ten thousand hours of practice as a nurse practitioner which have been completed under a transition-to-practice agreement, under a collaborative agreement, under an integrated practice agreement, through independent practice, or under any combination of such agreements or practice, as allowed in this state or another state.

(2) A nurse practitioner who was licensed in good standing in Nebraska on or before August 30, 2015, and had attained the equivalent of an initial two thousand hours of practice supervised by a physician or osteopathic physician shall be allowed to practice without a transition-to-practice agreement.
(3) For purposes of this section:
(a) Supervising provider means a physician, osteopathic physician, or nurse practitioner licensed and practicing in Nebraska and practicing in the same practice specialty, related specialty, or field of practice as the nurse practitioner being supervised; and
(b) Supervision means the ready availability of the supervising provider for consultation and direction of the activities of the nurse practitioner being supervised within such nurse practitioner's defined scope of practice.
Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 33; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 49; Laws 2002, LB 1062, § 46; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 62; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1723.02; Laws 2007, LB185, § 9; Laws 2007, LB463, § 814; Laws 2015, LB107, § 6; Laws 2017, LB88, § 80.

38-2323. Nurse practitioner; actions not prohibited.
Nothing in the Nurse Practitioner Practice Act shall prohibit a nurse practitioner from consulting or collaborating with and referring patients to health care providers not included in the nurse practitioner's transition-to-practice agreement.
Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 34; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 50; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 63; R.S.Supp.,2006, § 71-1723.03; Laws 2007, LB463, § 815; Laws 2015, LB107, § 7.

38-2324. Nurse practitioner; signing of death certificates; grounds for disciplinary action.
In addition to the grounds for disciplinary action found in sections 38-178 and 38-179, a license to practice as a nurse practitioner may be denied, refused renewal, limited, revoked, or suspended or have other disciplinary measures taken against it in accordance with section 38-196 when the applicant or licensee fails to comply with the provisions of section 71-603.01 and 71-605 relating to the signing of death certificates.
Source: Laws 2012, LB1042, § 3.

71-1704. **Transferred** to section 38-2301.
71-1705. **Repealed.** Laws 2005, LB 256, §103.
71-1706. **Transferred** to section 38-2302.
71-1707. **Transferred** to section 38-2312.
71-1708. **Transferred** to section 38-2306.
71-1709. **Repealed.** Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
71-1709.01 **Transferred** to section 38-2307.
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71-1710. **Repealed.** Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
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71-1713. **Repealed.** Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
71-1714. **Transferred** to section 38-2313.
71-1715. **Repealed.** Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
71-1716. **Transferred** to section 38-2308.
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71-1716.04. **Repealed.** Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
71-1716.05. **Transferred** to section 38-2314.
71-1717. **Transferred** to section 38-2305.
71-1718. **Repealed.** Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
71-1718.01. **Transferred** to section 71-17,134.
71-1718.02. **Transferred** to section 71-17,135.
71-1719 to 71-1720. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
71-1721. **Transferred** to section 38-2315.
71-1721.01 to 71-1721.06. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
71-1721.07. **Repealed.** Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-1722. **Transferred** to section 38-2317.
71-1723. **Repealed.** Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.
71-1723.01. **Transferred** to section 38-2321.

71-1723.02. **Transferred** to section 38-2322.
71-1723.03. **Transferred** to section 38-2323.
71-1723.04. **Transferred** to section 38-2320.
71-1724. **Transferred** to section 38-2319.
71-1724.01. **Transferred** to section 38-2318.
71-1724.02 to 71-1726. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 185, § 54.
71-1726.01. **Transferred** to section 38-2316.
71-1726.02. **Repealed.** Laws 2007, LB 463, § 1319.