

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

P.O. Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100

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Ruth Ann Terry, MPH, RN, Executive Officer



## DUAL LICENSURE

### THE RN AS LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSE OR NURSING ASSISTANT

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#### **RN AS LVN:**

The Board has been asked whether a person holding both current registered nursing (RN) and licensed vocational nursing (LVN) licenses may legally accept a position as an LVN. It is legal for the holder of both licenses to practice as an LVN. However, we caution the RN accepting such a position that although the LVN job description may limit the scope of practice of the dual licensee while functioning in a particular position, it is the position of this Board that, regardless of employment status, the RN is required to act as a patient advocate and to provide care that is in the best interest of the patient.

*THE ABOVE IS REPRINTED FROM THE BRN REPORT -- WINTER 1994*

#### **RN AS NURSING ASSISTANT OR HOME HEALTH AIDE:**

In a statement issued January 2, 1996 by the Department of Health Services, it was stated that: "It is the policy of Aide and Technician Certification Section (ATCS) to permit WITHOUT CERTIFICATION, the LVN, RN, or LPT to work as a Nurse Assistant (NA) or Home Health Aide (HHA). These individuals, for purposes of this policy, are person holding a California license as an RN, LVN, or LPT in active and good standing.

"An LVN, RN, or LPT receive more training and education, has higher skills level and scope of practice than an NA or HHA so it follows that certification for less is unnecessary and redundant. THEREFORE, ATCS WILL NOT ISSUE CERTIFICATES TO THESE INDIVIDUALS."

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to:

Department of Health Services  
Licensing and Certification Section  
PO Box 942732  
Sacramento, CA 94234-4320  
or call (916)327-2445.