



February 8, 2012

ANA statement on the case of Amanda Trujillo

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is closely monitoring the case of Amanda Trujillo, MSN, RN, and has been in contact with her attorney. ANA strongly supports nurses and their right and responsibility to engage in patient education and advocacy.

ANA appreciates how difficult it is for a nurse to undergo an investigation of his or her practice by the state board of nursing. To be clear, ANA expects the Arizona Board of Nursing to follow its standard procedure, to render an unbiased judgment in this case, and to be fully transparent in its findings.

ANA advises that any nurse who has been alerted by the board of a complaint and an impending investigation retain legal counsel. It is the role of legal counsel to represent the nurse during the process. In addition, ANA cautions nurses and the public not to rush to judgments about complex cases based on social media postings or other media coverage.

ANA is the professional association for the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses (RNs). Since its inception in 1896, ANA has established, promoted and maintained professional nursing practice through the development of foundational documents such as the *Code of Ethics for Nurses* and *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*.

State nurse practice acts are the laws that define scope of practice with the intent of protecting the public. The laws also establish qualifications for practice as well as what constitutes unprofessional conduct or misconduct and associated disciplinary procedures when a complaint is filed against a nurse. The board of nursing is responsible for ensuring nurses are competent and do not exceed their scope of practice. Therefore, it investigates complaints, holds hearings, and renders findings.

Professional associations, nurse practice acts, and state boards of nursing all play a vital role in protecting the public and the profession. ANA encourages nurses to seek out and apply resources that support them in their professional practice. ANA has many resources available on its website, www.NursingWorld.org.