2019 ANNUAL REPORT

American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights

ETHICS INBOX
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SOCIAL MEDIA
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Ethics Advisory Board

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- Marcia Bosek, DNSc, RN
- Teri Chenot, EdD, MSN, RN, FAAN
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- Linda Olson, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
- Kathryn Schroeter, PhD, RN, CNOR, CNE
- Betsy Swanson, DNP, MPH, APRN-BC
- Eileen Weber, DNP, JD, BSN, PHN, RN
- Michele Upvall, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN
- Liz Stokes, JD, MA, RN, CEHR Director
The American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights was established in 1990 to help nurses obtain a better understanding of ethical issues in practice in a rapidly changing landscape. The Center formed a collaboration of nursing ethics experts who pushed ethics and human rights to the forefront of nursing practice and has continued to do so for over 25 years. The ANA Ethics Advisory Board, under the auspices of the Center, is a team of 12 nurse ethicists from around the country who shape nursing policy. For the Center, 2019 was an exciting year with the release of new educational videos that accompanied position statements which were critical to nursing practice. The Center also celebrated a newly released position on the *The Nurse’s Role When a Patient Requests Medical Aid in Dying*, which was featured in the *New York Times*. The Center continued national advocacy efforts to increase ethics in nursing curriculum across schools of nursing in the United States. This report provides a summary of 2019 activities including hyperlinks to content where available.

**MISSION AND PURPOSE**

- Promulgate in collaboration with ANA constituents, a body of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, designed to address issues in ethics and human rights at the state, national, and international level;

- Develop and disseminate information about and advocate for public policy to assure that ethics and human rights are addressed in health care; and

- Assure that short and long-range objectives regarding ethics and human rights will be addressed within the Association, and expressed to appropriate bodies external to the Association.
The Center Ethics Inbox ethics@ana.org receives approximately 5-6 inquiries per week. There was a marked rise in inquiries in 2019 and the most common inquiry was related to public comments of position statements.

Number of Inquiries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>308</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Types of Inquiries

- Public comments: 59.9%
- Code of ethics: 8.1%
- Complaints: 6.7%
- Practice: 6.3%
- Advocacy: 5.6%
- Legal: 5.3%
- Position statements: 5.3%
- Join EAB: 2.8%
The ANA Ethics Advisory Board has a monthly column in American Nurse Today addressing some of the challenging ethical inquiries received in the ethics@ana.org inbox. Please click on each title for access to the article.

- Coping with Incivility in Academia
- Confronting Climate Change
- Concerns About Expedited Partner Therapy
- When Concerns Arise Over Family Involvement in Care
- Should Nurses Be Required to Get Flu Shots?

**AMERICAN NURSE TODAY**

The ANA Ethics Advisory Board has a monthly column in American Nurse Today addressing some of the challenging ethical inquiries received in the ethics@ana.org inbox. Please click on each title for access to the article.

- Oh the drama! Misconceptions About Nurses on TV
- Still Going Strong: No Room for Ageism in Nursing
- Does a Professional Code of Ethics Matter?
- Supporting Patients with End of Life Conversations
- Promoting Advance Care Planning
- Ethics, Relatively Speaking
Every year, the Center for Ethics and Human Rights, and the Ethics Advisory Board contribute numerous peer reviewed publications, blogs, articles, and other print information that contributes to health care literature and practice.


Social Media

- The Center reaches nurses around the world through Twitter @ANAEthics
- @ANAEthics highlights ethics and human rights related news around the world.
- We had 423,000 impressions in 2019. An impression is the number of times a tweet has been seen.

#Know the Code
Follow Us
@ANAEthics

Print Media

The Center was featured in numerous articles and print media, including a feature in the New York Times, *The Role of Nurses When Patients Decide to End Their Lives*. 

The Role of Nurses When Patients Decide to End Their Lives

Some hospitals and hospices have policies that forbid nurses to be part of the process or even to discuss end-of-life options.
The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements is one of the most commonly visited sites on Nursingworld.org. Over 283,000 views of the open access document occurred in 2019.
Position Statement Videos

This year the Center launched educational videos to accompany newly released position statements. Please click on the videos below to access the American Nurses Association YouTube webpage.

Position Statement: The Ethical Responsibility to Manage Pain and the Suffering It Causes
Presenter: Marcia Sue DeWolf Bosek DNSc, RN

The Nurse’s Role in Addressing Discrimination: Protecting and Promoting Inclusive Strategies in Practice Settings, Policy, and Advocacy
PRESENTATIONS

Heather Fitzgerald, Children’s Hospital Colorado, *Annual Community and School Health Pediatric Nurses Conference*, June 2019

Liz Stokes, Creating a Culture of Ethical Practice: A Call to Action. *Sigma Theta Tau International Creating Healthy Work Environments Conference*, February 2019

Kathryn Schroeter, Applying the ANA Code of Ethics to Your Perioperative Nursing Practice, *Association of periOperative Registered Nurses*, October, 2019

Betsy Swanson, Nurses Behaving Badly: Incivility in the Academy Use the Code of Ethics to Build a Respectful Workplace, *South Carolina Nurses Association*, March 2019

Liz Stokes, Advancing Ethics Education in Nursing Curriculum. *7th International Conference on Ethics Education*, July 2019


Heather Fitzgerald, The Role of the Nurse Ethicist Within Healthcare Institutions, *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities*, October 2019

Jennifer Bartlett, Nursing Education: A Call to Action, *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities*, October 2019

Liz Stokes et al., The Opioid Epidemic – What you need to know! *American Nurses Association Quality and Innovation Conference*, April 2019

Eileen Weber, Ethical and Legal Issues in Palliative Care, *End of Life Nursing Education*, April 2019

Martha Turner, Code of Ethics: Knowledge and Application, *Minneapolis Veterans Administration*, May 2019

Heather Fitzgerald et al., Creating Ethical Climates: Cultivating the Conditions for Nurses to Thrive, *Children’s Hospital Association Chief Nursing Officer Forum*, November 2019


Jennifer Bartlett et al., Crisis in Nursing Ethics: A Proposal for Change with Interprofessional Application, *American Society for Bioethics and Humanities*, October 2019

Betsy Swanson, Unsuspecting Targets: Nursing Educators, *National Nursing Ethics Conference*, March 2019

Liz Stokes, A Comparison of the ADA, ACA and ANA: Defining Professionalism through Codes of Ethics. *Association for Practical and Professional Ethics*, March 2019

Jennifer Bartlett et al., Improving Medication Adherence in Patients after Liver Transplantation: Motivational Interviewing with Nurse Practitioners, *National Nursing Ethics Conference*, March 2019

Eileen Weber, Medical Aid in Dying, *University of Minnesota School of Nursing*, January 2019, September 2019

Liz Stokes et al., Transforming National Policy Into Ethical Practice. *7th International Conference on Ethics Education*, July 2019
Amicus Briefs

Interpretive Statement 9.3 of the Code of Ethics for Nurses calls on nursing organizations to advocate for social justice. The American Association supported several critical issues such as reproductive justice, advocacy for transgender individuals, nurse fatigue, and support for protections of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. As amicus curiae (friend of the court brief), ANA provided support and expertise to the following legal cases:


- **Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia; Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda; and R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Opportunity Commissions.** Supreme Court of the United States, Nos. 17-1623, 17-1623, and 18-107.

- **Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul Home v. Pennsylvania; and Donald Trump v. Pennsylvania.** The Supreme Court of the United States Nos. 19-454, 19-481.


- **Reiyn Keohane v. Florida Dept. of Corrections.** United States District Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Case: 18-14096

- **Adams v. School Board of St. John’s County, Florida.** United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Case No. 18-13592

- **Parents for Privacy v. Dallas School District No. 2.** United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Case No. 18-35708

- **Massachusetts v. U.S. Dept’ of Health & Human Servs.** United States Court of Appeals For the First Circuit. 923 F.3d 209 (1st Cir. 2019).

- **State of California et al. v. Health & Human Services et al.** United States District Court Northern District of California, Oakland Division. Case No. 17-CV-05783-HSG

- **Richard Deotte et al. vs. Alex Azar as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.** United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. No. 19-10754.

- **Washington State Nurses Association v. Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center.** Supreme Court of the State of Washington. No. 97532.


Contact Us ethics@ana.org