

NAME CHANGES

One of the most frequent questions the Board gets concerns the name a licensee should use. Kentucky recognizes the common law right of any person to change their name, so long as it is not done for fraudulent purposes. There is a procedure set out in the state statutes (KRS Chapter 401) which gives the district courts jurisdiction over name change requests.

If a licensee wishes to change their name, the licensee is required by KBN administrative regulation to submit the proper documentation (i.e. a copy of the marriage license, divorce decree, court order, social security card) and to request a change of name as it appears in the KBN database for licensure. The fee for this is \$25.

A licensee should always sign as the licensee on charts, etc. in the name that appears on the KBN database, as this is the licensee's official name for licensure. See, 201 KAR 20:085 Section 3. If a change is requested, the new name can be used when the database is changed. A licensee who has officially changed their name should not use their new name in their employment capacity until he/she officially changes it with the Board. Until that is accomplished, and the proper documentation (i.e. a copy of the marriage license, divorce decree, court order, social security card) is provided to KBN, he/she should continue to use the name that is on file with the KBN.

The attorneys for the Kentucky Board of Nursing provide legal opinions to assist the public in the interpretation of the provisions of KRS Chapter 314 and the regulations enacted in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 314. These legal opinions do not have the force of law and should not be cited as legal authority. Rather, these opinions constitute the legal opinion of the KBN attorney who authored the legal opinion as of the date of the issuance of the opinion.

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9/15/14
5/16/21