

Retired License: Nurse

CRS 12-38-112.5

A retired nurse can apply for a retired status license. A retired license allows a nurse to provide care voluntarily and without a fee within the scope of their license. An individual possessing a retired nurse license will not be held legally responsible for the care they provide voluntarily and without a fee unless if they act with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Retired volunteer nurse licensure

- (1) The board may issue a license to a retired volunteer nurse who meets the requirements set forth in this section.
- (2) A retired volunteer nursing license shall only be issued to an applicant who is at least fifty-five years of age and:
 - (a) Currently holds a license to practice nursing, either as a practical nurse or as a professional nurse and such license is due to expire unless renewed; or
 - (b) Has retired from the practice of nursing and is not currently engaged in the practice of nursing either full-time or part-time and has, prior to retirement, maintained full licensure in good standing in any state or territory of the United States.
- (3) A nurse who holds a retired volunteer nursing license shall not accept compensation for nursing tasks that are performed while in possession of the license. A retired volunteer nursing license shall permit the retired nurse to engage in volunteer nursing tasks within the scope of the nurse's license.
- (4) An applicant for a retired volunteer nursing license shall submit to the board an application containing such information as the board may prescribe, a copy of the applicant's most recent nursing license, and a statement signed under penalty of perjury in which the applicant agrees not to receive compensation for any nursing tasks that are performed while in possession of the license.
- (5) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2011, (SB 11-242), ch. 244, p. 1068, § 1, effective May 27, 2011.)

(6) A person who possesses a retired volunteer nursing license shall be immune from civil liability for actions performed within the scope of the nursing license unless it is established that injury or death was caused by gross negligence or the willful and wanton misconduct of the licensee. The immunity provided in this subsection (6) shall apply only to the licensee and shall not affect the liability of any other individual or entity. Nothing in this subsection (6) shall be construed to limit the ability of the board to take disciplinary action against a licensee.

(7) The fee for a retired volunteer nursing license, including assessments for legal defense, peer assistance, and other programs for which licenses are assessed, shall be no more than fifty percent of the license renewal fee, including all such assessments, established by the board for an active nursing license.

(8) The board shall design a questionnaire to be sent to all retired volunteer nurses who apply for license renewal. Each applicant for license renewal shall complete the board-designed questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire is to determine whether a licensee has acted in violation of this article or been disciplined for any action that might be considered a violation of this article or might make the licensee unfit to practice nursing with reasonable care and safety. If an applicant fails to answer the questionnaire accurately, such failure shall constitute grounds for discipline under section 12-38-117 (1) (v). The board may include the cost of developing and reviewing the questionnaire in the fee paid under subsection (7) of this section. The board may refuse an application for license renewal that does not accompany an accurately completed questionnaire.

(9) The board shall deny an application for the reactivation of a practical or professional nurse license for a retired volunteer nurse if the board determines that the nurse requesting reactivation has not actively volunteered as a nurse for the two-year period immediately preceding the filing of the application for license reactivation or has not otherwise demonstrated continued competency to return to the active practice of nursing in a manner approved by the board.