



The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs), registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by its registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs, RPNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.

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One way the College achieves our mandate is by requiring registrants to self-report a criminal offence or any regulatory actions against them. This tool is a resource for registrants to help them understand:

- When and how they self-report a criminal offence
- When and how they self-report regulatory action taken against them
- NSCN actions once a report is received

Like all regulatory tools, registrants should use this document in conjunction with employer policy, applicable legislation and their standards of practice and code of ethics.

The College is responsible for ensuring registrants in Nova Scotia possess the capacity, competence, and character to safely and ethically engage in the practice of nursing.

Criminal Offence

Registrants are required to self-report criminal offences. This includes if they:

- Have been charged with,
- Have pleaded guilty to, or
- Been convicted of,

any offence under the [Criminal Code](#), [Controlled Drug and Substances Act](#), or outside of Canada, if committed in Canada, would constitute an offence under these Acts. Registrants added to a child abuse registry and/or adult abuse registry, must also disclose this information to NSCN.

Registrants must immediately self-report these offences to NSCN at registration@nscn.ca at any point during the licensure year and at licence renewal.

Registrants are not required to self-report offences for which a pardon has been issued or a record suspension has been ordered.

Self-reporting excludes parking, speeding or similar minor motor vehicle offences that **do not** involve substance use.

Regulatory Action

Registrants are required to self-report any regulatory actions against them. This includes actions in any jurisdiction if the registrant:

- Has been found guilty of a disciplinary finding,
- Has had a licensing sanction imposed such as their licence being restricted, suspended, or cancelled by a regulatory body, or
- Is the subject of an investigation, or disciplinary process.

Registrants must immediately self-report to NSCN at registration@nscn.ca if regulatory action is taken against them at any point during the licensure year and at licence renewal.

Failing to disclose information may constitute professional misconduct.

NSCN Actions

Once reported, NSCN may require the registrant to:

- Fully disclose the facts or circumstances of the matter, including but not limited to, providing an updated criminal record check, court records, verification of registration from a regulatory body, or other related documentation.
- Meet with the NSCN Complaints Committee or the NSCN Registration and Licensing Committee, if reported through licence renewal, to fully disclose the facts and circumstances of the matter.

The committee's decision will depend on the individual circumstances of the matter.

For applicants or individuals looking to apply for registration and licensure in Nova Scotia for the first time and have questions regarding their criminal history or regulatory actions, please contact us at registration@nscn.ca.

Suggested Readings

- [Nursing Act \(2019\)](#)
- [Jurisprudence Information](#)