

Oklahoma Board of Nursing
2915 N. Classen Blvd., Suite 524
Oklahoma City, OK 73106
www.ok.gov/nursing

**Information for Licensed Nurses, Advanced Unlicensed Assistants,
and Applicants for a License or Certificate:**

**Requirements for Verification of Citizenship or Qualified Alien Status,
Effective Nov. 1, 2007**

Overview

A bill passed by the Oklahoma Legislature in the 2007 Legislative Session will have significant impact on licensure of individuals who are not United States citizens. House Bill 1804, entitled the Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007, seeks to “discourage illegal immigration by requiring all agencies within this state to fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities in the enforcement of federal immigration laws” (HB 1804). **The new legislation requires the Oklahoma Board of Nursing to issue a license or certificate only to United States citizens, nationals and legal permanent resident aliens; and to applicants who present, in person, valid documentary evidence of:**

1. A valid, unexpired immigrant or nonimmigrant visa status for admission into the United States;
2. A pending or approved application for asylum in the United States;
3. Admission into the United States in refugee status;
4. A pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the United States;
5. Approved deferred action status; or
6. A pending application for adjustment of status to legal permanent residence status or conditional resident status.

Requirements for New Applicants and Applicants for Reinstatements/Return to Active Status

Applicants for licensure by examination, licensure by endorsement, certification as an advanced unlicensed assistant, and reinstatement or return to active status of a license or certificate will fall into one of two categories:

- Applicants who are United States citizens, nationals, or legal permanent resident aliens must submit with their application and fee a notarized *Evidence of Status Form: Part A* and a photocopy of documentation verifying their citizenship status, as indicated on the *Evidence of Status Form: Part A*; or

- Applicants who are not United States citizens, nationals, or legal permanent resident aliens **must submit in person at the Board office an *Evidence of Status Form: Part B* and original qualified alien documentation**, with their application, OSBI Criminal History Records Search, and fee. The original documentation will be verified, copied, and notarized. The status will be verified on an online system through the Department of Homeland Security (the SAVE system). **Qualified aliens will only be eligible to receive a license or certificate marked “Temporary”, valid for the time period of their authorized stay in the United States, or if there is no date of end to the time period of their authorized stay, for one year.**

Requirements for Renewal of License or Certificate

In 2008 and 2009, all licensed nurses and certified advanced unlicensed assistants will be required to verify citizenship status at the time of licensure or certificate renewal. Nurses and advanced unlicensed assistants who are not U.S. citizens, nationals, or legal permanent resident aliens, will not be able to renew online or by mail. Instead, they will be instructed to bring their original documentation to the Board office to renew. Their renewed license or certificate will be marked “Temporary”.

For qualified aliens holding a license or certificate marked “Temporary”, the licensee/certificate holder will receive a letter three months before the expiration date, instructing him/her to present, in person at the Board office, an *Evidence of Status Form* and original, unexpired documentation verifying their current immigration status. The licensee will then be provided with a renewal form to complete at the office and submit with the required fee.

Summary

The Oklahoma Board of Nursing plans to fully cooperate by implementing changes in licensing and certification procedures at the time the new law becomes effective on November 1, 2007. New application forms and an *Evidence of Status Form* will be available on the website on or before November 1, 2007. **All applications for licensure by examination, licensure by endorsement, certification as an advanced unlicensed assistant, or reinstatement/return to active status submitted on or after November 1, 2007, must use the new forms and meet the new requirements.**