

Resolution 4
Mississippi Nurses' Association
108th House of Delegates
Biloxi Convention Center
Biloxi, MS

Introduced by: **Shonda Phelon, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, GNP-BC,**
 Director, Council on Advanced Practice Nursing
 on behalf of the MNA Board of Directors

RESOLUTION: **Support Increasing Awareness of Nurses' Responsibility in the Use**
 of Social Media

WHEREAS, many nurses use social media applications in their personal and professional lives and seven in ten Americans use social media¹; and

WHEREAS, nurses are increasingly using blogs, forums, and social networking sites to share workplace experiences, reflect or seek support from colleagues, peers or virtually anyone on the Internet²; and

WHEREAS, the very nature of social media can pose a risk as it offers instantaneous posting opportunities that allow little time for reflective thought and carries the added burden that what is posted is discoverable by a court of law even when it is long deleted³; and

WHEREAS, inappropriate use of social media can lead to legal problems for nurses that involve privacy violations, cyberbullying, questionable moral character, and questionable ethics⁴; and

WHEREAS, unintended consequences of a nurse's poor judgment on social media can breach a patient's privacy, damage a patient's trust in the individual nurse and the profession, and further damage a nurse's professional and personal future⁵; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include fostering high standards of nursing (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include promoting and protecting the professional development of nurses (Article 1; Section 2.A.); and

WHEREAS, the functions of the Mississippi Nurses' Association include providing leadership in nursing in the State (Article 1; Section 3.H.).

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to support increasing awareness of nurses' responsibility in the use of social media to adhere to relevant federal and

state laws, state regulations, employer policies, and the American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements*.

The Mississippi Nurses' Association, THEREFORE, RESOLVES, to support increasing awareness of nurses' responsibility in the use of social media, as appropriate, through publication of articles in the *MS RN*, information disseminated via email, and information disseminated during continuing education events. Such efforts demonstrate the Mississippi Nurses' Association's and its members' leadership and support for the nurses of Mississippi.

¹ Balestra, M.L., (2018), Social Media Missteps Could Put Your Nursing License At Risk, *American Nurse Today*, 13, No. 3, 20-21, 63. <https://www.americannursetoday.com/social-media-nursing-license-risk/>.

² National Council State Boards of Nursing (August 2011) *A Nurse's Guide to the Use of Social Media*, retrieved from https://www.ncsbn.org/Social_Media.pdf.

³ National Council State Boards of Nursing. (2018) *A Nurses Guide to the Use of Social Media*, Chicago, IL: n.p. retrieved from https://www.ncsbn.org/NCSBN_SocialMedia.pdf.

⁴ Brous, E., (May 11, 2013) How To Avoid the Pitfalls of Social Media, *American Nurse Today*, <https://www.americannursetoday.com/how-to-avoid-the-pitfalls-of-social-media/>.

⁵ American Nurses Association (2011), *ANA's Principles for Social Networking and the Nurse, Guidance for Registered Nurses*, Silver Springs, MD: Nursesbooks.org.