



# News Release

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## **King County nurse surrenders license after authorizing pot to kids**

**OLYMPIA** — A King County registered nurse and advance registered nurse practitioner who authorized medical marijuana to two young children without conducting complete examinations has surrendered his credentials. Joel Berman (RN00072108 and AP30000296) voluntarily gave up both credentials effective October 11, 2013 and he can no longer practice.

Berman was charged with issuing medical marijuana authorizations to two children aged six and four after diagnosing them with a wasting condition. A wasting syndrome is not a valid independent pediatric diagnosis without another concurrent illness. Berman authorized the medical marijuana to treat the alleged wasting condition even though he had not given either child a complete physical exam. He didn't review their medical histories, didn't document measures other than marijuana used to treat the patients, and didn't fully record and adequately document his examination of the two children for terminal or debilitating medical conditions.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission protects public health and safety in Washington by regulation of nursing practice. The commission establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency, and discipline.

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