



News Release

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Clark County nurse suspended on charges of sexual contact with a child

OLYMPIA — A Clark County nurse’s license has been immediately suspended based on charges that he had sexual contact with a child.

The Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission took action against Zachariah Merritt (RN60177862) due to allegations that he used his finger to penetrate a girl’s vagina while she was taking a nap. Merritt later tried to kill himself. He has been criminally charged in Clark County Superior Court with second-degree rape and other sex charges.

Merritt also holds emergency medical technician and nursing assistant certified licenses (NC10060344, ES01170989). Those credentials were also immediately suspended by the Department of Health because of the charges.

He cannot practice in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the actions against his licenses and to ask for a hearing.

The documents can be seen online by clicking “[Look up a health care provider](#)” on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. The number can also be used to file complaints against health care providers in Washington.

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

The [Department of Health website](#) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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