



News Release

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Clark County nurse suspended nine years for sexual contact with a child

OLYMPIA — A Clark County nurse’s license has been suspended for at least nine years for having sexual contact with a child.

The Nursing Commission found that Zachariah Merritt (RN60177862) sexually assaulted a girl by putting his finger into her vagina. The commission also found that he misused alcohol and drugs. Merritt, who regularly had six to eight alcoholic drinks a day, used medication not prescribed to him in a suicide attempt. He was convicted in Clark County Superior Court of third-degree assault, a felony, and communication with a minor for immoral purposes, a gross misdemeanor.

Merritt’s license was suspended in April 2014 and he remained out of practice during the process that led to this final order, which completed the legal action.

He cannot practice nursing in Washington for at least nine years. Merritt must show he has been rehabilitated and provide proof of his sobriety before he can request that his license be reinstated.

The documents in the case 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 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.

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