

OFFICIAL STATEMENT



Date: April 15, 2026

Subject: Support and Continuity of Forensic Nursing Practice in Arkansas

To Whom It May Concern:

The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association acknowledges the recent dissolution of the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and how it impacts programs supporting forensic nursing practice. While structural changes may occur within healthcare and professional organizations, the essential role of forensic nurses in providing specialized care to individuals impacted by violence, trauma, abuse, and exploitation remains unchanged.

Forensic nursing is a vital specialty that bridges healthcare, public health, and the justice system. Forensic nurses provide trauma-informed care, perform medical forensic examinations, document injuries, preserve evidence, and collaborate with multidisciplinary partners to support patient recovery and accountability within the legal system. The continuity of these services remain critical to the health and safety of individuals and communities.

The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association affirms that forensic nursing practice will continue to advance. The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association remains committed to advancing forensic nursing, supporting practitioners, and advocating for patient-centered care across the state.

Professional Certification and Credentialing

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner credentials, including adult and pediatric certifications, will be transferred to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). All current certifications obtained through the International Association of Forensic Nurses will remain valid through 12/31/2027. Practitioners should continue to maintain their credentials and adhere to established professional standards of practice.

Forensic nurses may continue to pursue and maintain nationally recognized credentials, including but not limited to:

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Adult/Adolescent (SANE-A)
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner – Pediatric (SANE-P)
- Advanced Forensic Nursing – Board Certified (AFN-BC)
- Other relevant forensic or specialty nursing certifications

Credential holders with questions can contact the ANCC Customer Care Center directly at customerservice@ana.org. Additional certification opportunities remain available through nationally recognized credentialing organizations.



Professional Engagement and Development

Forensic nurses are encouraged to remain engaged with professional organizations that support continuing education, advocacy, and professional collaboration. Opportunities include:

- Certification pathways through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- Professional membership and educational resources through the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
- Participation in multidisciplinary partnerships that support victims of violence and trauma

Our Position

The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association affirms the following:

- Forensic nursing remains an essential healthcare specialty.
- Trauma-informed forensic services must continue without disruption.
- Current forensic nursing certifications remain valid and recognized.
- Ongoing certification, education, and professional development are necessary for practice sustainability.
- Collaboration among healthcare, legal, and community partners remains fundamental to effective forensic practice.
- Professional associations will continue to advocate for the recognition, advancement, and sustainability of forensic nursing.

Commitment Moving Forward

The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association will continue to provide information, guidance, and resources as updates become available. Our priority is to ensure that forensic nurses remain supported, informed, and empowered to continue their essential work.

The Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association remains committed to protecting the integrity of the specialty, supporting the professionals who practice it, and ensuring that patients experiencing violence receive the expert care they deserve.

Respectfully,

**Arkansas Forensic Nurses Association
Board of Directors**