

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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January 2, 2014

Ms. Rita Arceneaux
Confidential Executive Assistant

RE: Advisory Opinion-ultrasound

At its most recent meeting the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (the "Board") considered your inquiry as to whether an individual performing an ultrasound examination may: (1) offer or provide a diagnosis or an opinion of findings related to an ultrasound examination to any physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana; or (2) prepare or offer a preliminary report of findings, verbal or written, to any physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana.

The Board has asked that I acknowledge your letter of November 11, 2013 and advise you that it considers the interpretation of ultrasound testing to constitute a diagnosis which, in turn, constitutes the practice of medicine as defined by the Louisiana Medical Practice Act.¹ As a result, such a diagnosis may only be provided with respect to individuals located in this state by a Louisiana licensed physician.² Thus, while it would not be inappropriate, in the Board's view, for an individual performing an ultrasound examination to respond to inquiries and/or provide information to the physician who ordered the particular examination for his or her patient, such an individual should not provide a diagnosis or opinion as to the significance of the examination results or render a report relative to the examination findings.

We hope that our response to your inquiry is sufficient for your needs. If not, or if we may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
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By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rita Arceneaux", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Rita Arceneaux" and her title "Confidential Executive Assistant" are printed.

Rita Arceneaux

Confidential Executive Assistant

¹La. Rev. Stat. §37:1262(1).

²La. Rev. Stat. §37:1271.