

Kansas State Board of Nursing  
Position Statement

**PATIENT ABANDONMENT**

**Licensees have the professional responsibility to accept or decline an additional or overtime assignment based on self-assessment of their ability to provide safe, professional care with an appropriate level of physical and mental acuity. They also have a professional responsibility to limit employment hours to maintain safe professional practice.**

**Refusal to accept additional work assignments or refusal to work additional hours or shifts is not considered “patient abandonment” and is not, in and of itself, actionable by the Kansas State Board of Nursing.**

- **Patient abandonment**-leaving an assignment that has been accepted, without notifying the appropriate authority and allowing reasonable time for replacement, whereby such departure endangers the health, safety and welfare of those patients entrusted to the licensee’s care.

Approved; 5-16-02