

CIRCULATING NURSE ACT - ENACTMENT
Act of Jun. 16, 2010, P.L. 211, No. 32
AN ACT

CL. 35

Requiring a circulating nurse in certain operating rooms.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the Circulating Nurse Act.

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this legislation is to require a registered nurse to be the circulating nurse in an operating room for the safety of the patient.

Section 3. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Health care facility." Any hospital or class C ambulatory surgical facility as defined by 28 Pa. Code Pt. IV (relating to health facilities).

"Operating room of the facility." The phrase shall only include the number of operating rooms covered by a health care facility's license issued by the Department of Health.

"Registered nurse." An individual licensed under the laws of this Commonwealth to practice professional nursing.

Section 4. Operating room staff.

Only a registered nurse, licensed in this Commonwealth, qualified by training and experience in operating room nursing shall function as a circulating nurse during all surgical procedures performed in an operating room of a health care facility.

Section 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.