

RNAO

Registered Nurses
Association
of Ontario

L'Association des infirmières
et infirmiers autorisés de
l'Ontario

FAX TRANSMISSION

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From: Lesley Frey, Managing Editor
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Date: May 9, 2002

No. Of Pages (including this one): 2

Comments:

Thank you for your letter to the editor regarding the article entitled *Criminal charges rattle RNs*.

Your letter will appear in the May/June 2002 issue of *Registered Nurse Journal*. A copy of the letter as it will appear in the journal is attached.

Thank you for your submission, lesley

The original: will not follow will follow by mail will follow by courier

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RNs respond to hospital's account of events

Re: Criminal charges rattle RNs (March/April 2002) I assisted the family with nursing analysis at the coroner's inquest held in 2000 to investigate their 10-year-old child's death at the Hospital for Sick Children. It was this death which led to criminal charges being laid against two of the hospital's nurses.

The thrust of Dr. Rush's article is that these charges caused shock, disbelief, fear, and concern among nurses across Ontario and the entire country, that it was outrageous that such a thing could have happened, and how important it was for the nursing community to support these two nurses in every way possible.

Dr. Rush has neglected to mention that the College of Nurses of Ontario is vigorously prosecuting these two nurses on multiple charges of professional misconduct relating to the care they provided to the child...I wonder whether Dr. Rush has familiarized herself with the nursing details of this case, or if her comments are simply a knee-jerk response to having two of her hospital's nurses charged with a serious criminal offence. It is undisputed fact that these two nurses admitted the child to their ward from the emergency department on a very quiet night, yet never once checked the doctor's orders nor followed the applicable Hospital for Sick Children written protocols.

Dr. Rush writes that the prevailing sentiment among Sick Kids' nurses is "This could happen to any of us." If Sick Kids' nurses truly believe that they could easily have provided the same level of nursing care to their own patients, then those patients would be far safer if they stayed away from the hospital. The nurses that I know are proud of their nursing skills, their dedication to the profession and their patients, and they would never find this type of nursing acceptable.

When this case comes to trial, nurses will have to make a choice: quality nursing or solidarity at any cost. It appears that Dr. Rush has already made her choice.

Sandra Deush, RN
Thornhill

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please change to Sharon.