

# ***THE NEWSLETTER*** for Attorneys and Paralegals



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**RN ASSOCIATES**  
A Legal Nurse Consultant Group

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## **ABOUT CERTIFIED LEGAL NURSE CONSULTANTS**

- *What is a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant ?*
- *Certified vs. non-certified – What's the difference?*
- *What does a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant Do ?*

A true Certified Legal Nurse Consultant (CLNC) is a licensed, Registered Nurse who has successfully completed an accredited course and passed a national Certification Examination demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of and ability to practice in the legal nurse consultant profession. The CLNC has made a commitment to continuing education to promote and maintain quality and to maintain certification status.

While certification serves to promote and maintain quality, it does not license, confer a right or privilege upon, or otherwise define the qualifications of anyone in the legal nurse consulting field. Nurses do not have to be certified to practice as a legal nurse consultant.

It does, however, establish that the CLNC has 'gone the extra mile' and demonstrated a proficiency in the field. The course and the examination tests a body of knowledge that encompasses not only tasks legal nurse consultants perform but also the integrity and conduct of a professional legal nurse consultant.

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## **CLNC's DO:**

- Apply their knowledge and understanding of the medical, nursing and health-related issues to the analysis of a case
- Assist in screening a case for merit
- Conduct library research
- Serve as an expert witness and testify to the nursing Standards of Care
- Prepare chronologies of the medical events, organize and review medical records, and summarize medical and nursing literature pertinent to the case.
- Assist in identifying adherence to, and deviations from, the Standards of Care (both nursing and medical)
- Identify, locate, summarize and interpret Standards of Care
- Identify, locate, summarize and interpret hospital policies and procedures
- Identify causation and damages issues
- Identify issues of tampering with medical records
- Assist in deposition and trial
- Help prepare demonstrative evidence
- Assist on resolution of cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution such as arbitration and mediation

## Who is the Certifying Body ?

The Medical-Legal Consulting Institute, Inc. is the certifying body. While this certification serves to promote and maintain quality through mandatory continuing education, it does not license, confer a right or privilege upon, or otherwise define the qualifications of anyone in the legal nurse consulting field. The initials CLNC are a registered certification mark of the Medical-Legal Consulting Institute, Inc. When nurses become certified through the Institute, they may use the credentials CLNC. RNs who have not achieved CLCN status are not authorized to use the CLNC credential.

## How Can You Find a CLNC for Your Firm ?

The Institute has trained thousands of nurses nationwide. Ask the nurse you interview whether or not they've had training or experience and whether or not they are a Certified Legal Nurse Consultant (CLNC). Look for specific training in legal nurse consulting. Look for the best!

## What Types of Cases Can a CLNC Consult On:

- Medical and Nursing Malpractice cases
- General Personal Injury cases
- Products Liability cases
- Toxic Tort Cases
- Workers' Compensation Cases
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cases, Medical Disability Insurance Benefits and denial of benefits cases
- Cases involving managed cases, access to care and denial of care issues
- Criminal cases
- Any cases where health, illness or injury is at issue

## What's the Difference Between a CLNC and a Legal-Assistant or Paralegal?

- The CLNC is an entirely different asset than the paralegal or legal assistant. The CLNC brings specialized knowledge of the health care system, nursing and even medicine. CLNCs are capable of a wider range of activities than the non-nurse paralegal within the context of medical file review, educating both the attorney and the paralegal about medical and nursing issues, injury and disease processes, Standards of Care and identifying the probable cause of the injury or illness.
- The CLNC can and does identify issues surrounding frivolous claims within the context of Malpractice, Negligence and Denial of Benefits and Care.
- A CLNC summarizes the lengthy, often confusing, medical records helping attorneys to make determinations on issues of liability of a particular issue or claim. The CLNC prepares reports outlining the extent of a client's illness or injury, and suggest the progress of recovery. Such input can help attorneys decide on damages and, in some cases, whether or not to consider litigation at all.

The Paralegal's areas of expertise are also vital – to the attorney *and* the CLNC – and each professional's specialty complements the other, making the whole very much greater than its parts.

CLNCs, like attorneys, depend on the management skills and attention to timeliness and filing dates, production of forms and letters and a myriad of other details outside the scope and purview of the CLNC that make a law office successful.