



MELINDA STARKES, RN, BSN, CLNC, CPAN
FORENSIC NURSE

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Melinda Starkes is a Forensic Nurse with Engineering Systems Inc (ESi). Her nursing background includes Critical care and Post Anesthesia Care for Vascular, Urological, Gynecological, Bariatric, Plastic, ENT, Orthopedic, and Spine Surgery. She also has clinical experience in Endoscopy, and Bone Marrow Transplant. She has completed certifications in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support and is a Certified Peri-anesthesia Nurse and Certified Legal Nurse Consultant®.

Prior to joining ESi, she worked as a clinical nurse for several large acute care hospitals. She has over 15 years of experience in quality patient care, nursing education, and leadership. Several of her roles required a close partnership with hospital risk management teams and informatics committees where she developed a risk management approach in reviewing of policies, procedures, medical records, and patient care standards in the clinical setting. Ms. Starkes has experience in analyzing and investigating medical records, legal documents, and government reports. She has experience serving as a nurse expert witness in medical malpractice cases, attending independent medical exams (IME's) and evaluating cases for merit.

Ms. Starkes specializes in creating medical summaries that outline critical information such as pertinent past medical history, pre-existing conditions, prior injuries, current medical history, physical injuries, diagnoses, lifestyle factors, medications, subjective evidence, and missing medical records. She also aids in preparing deposition questions, injury diagrams and assists in the development of medical-legal exhibit.

Areas of Specialization

Forensic accident records review:

- Identification of missing records/audit trails
- Medical records summarization
- Critical analysis of healthcare, government, and legal records

Medical-legal trial exhibits

Medical-legal case review

Education

Bachelor of Business Administration, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
Bachelor of Science of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX
*George Foundation Academic Scholarship Recipient University of Texas
Health Science Center*

Master of Science of Nursing-Forensics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
Expected graduation date: May 2025

February 2024

Professional Affiliations/Honors

American Nursing Association
Texas Nursing Association
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC)
Online Education, Professional Development, and Forum Committee
American Society of Peri-anesthesia Nurses (ASPAN)
International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN)
National Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (NACLNC)

Certifications

Advanced Cardiac Life Support, American Heart Association
Pediatric Advanced Life Support, American Heart Association
Certified Peri-anesthesia Nurse, American Board of Peri-anesthesia Nursing Certification
NIH Stroke Scale International
Certified Legal Nurse Consultant®

Positions Held

Engineering Systems Inc., Conroe, TX

Staff Consultant, 2022 – present

Houston Methodist Hospital, The Woodlands, TX

Clinical Nurse, Critical care and Post Anesthesia Recovery Unit, 2020 – 2022

Baylor Scott and White Hospital, Lakeway, TX

Clinical Nurse, Critical care and Post Anesthesia Recovery Unit, 2018 – 2020

The Hospital at Westlake Medical Center, Austin, TX

Clinical Nurse, Perioperative Services, 2013 – 2018

University Medical Center Brackenridge, Austin, TX

Clinical Nurse, Perioperative Services, 2007 – 2013

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

Clinical Nurse, Bone Marrow Transplant, 1999 – 2000

Patient Care Coordinator for Thoracic Surgery Research, 1995 – 1997

Continued Education

Unraveling the Mystery of Medical Review Panels

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

Critical Thinking – The Missing Link

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

Challenges & Controversies for Testifying Experts and LNCs: Deviations, Damages and Causation Opinions

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

Advanced ECG Interpretation

Houston Methodist The Woodlands

Healthcare Provider Practice Acts

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

Human Trafficking: Medical Response

Texas A&M University College of Nursing

The Role of the LNC in DME/IME's

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants

Presentations

“Forensic Engineering: The View from the Eyes of the Forensic Nurse” presented at the Greater Orlando Chapter of American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants Chapter Update and CE Program Webinar, March 21, 2023.