

ANIA Statement in Response to the Conviction of Nurse RaDonda Vaught

Position Statement of the American Nursing Informatics Association Board of Directors



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Most of you have heard about the unfortunate incident involving RaDonda Vaught. We are saddened by the way this case was handled and find it especially painful that the sentencing is occurring during National Nurses Week.

The American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA) stands united with the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), the American Society for Health Care Risk Management (ASHRM), and others in response to the criminal verdict against Nurse RaDonda Vaught.

Robyn Begley, DNP, RN, chief nursing officer of the American Hospital Association and CEO of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership stated (March 2022):

The verdict in this tragic case will have a chilling effect on the culture of safety in health care. The Institute of Medicine's landmark report *To Err Is Human* concluded that we cannot punish our way to safer medical practices. We must instead encourage nurses and physicians to report errors so we can identify strategies to make sure they don't happen again. Criminal prosecutions for unintentional acts are the wrong approach. They discourage health caregivers from coming forward with their mistakes, and will complicate efforts to retain and recruit more people in to nursing and other health care professions that are already understaffed and strained by years of caring for patients during the pandemic.

ANIA specific statement: As nursing informatics professionals, we understand how critical workflow design, communication, testing, and validation are to ensure our systems support patient safety. As a nursing informatics organization, we developed a position statement titled "[Addressing the Safety of Electronic Health Records](#)" focusing on the safety of electronic health records (EHRs) in 2015. You can find this and other position statements online at ania.org/position-statements.

We are continuing our work around Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) Guides, starting with a downtime tool kit that will be available this summer. ANIA celebrates all nurses this National Nurses Week and we encourage every nurse to continuously improve and refine workflows and system designs to protect patients and improve clinical outcomes.