



WHEREAS, the investigation report provided to the Board indicated that the Rapid City Police Department was able to obtain video from an ATM which identified that the Licensee was involved in the transaction; and

WHEREAS, the Board's attempts to contact the Licensee by telephone on October 20 and 21, 2015, and November 13, 2015, were unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2015, Board staff sent a letter to the Licensee via regular mail and certified mail. On November 25, 2015, the letter was returned to the Board office; and

WHEREAS, Board staff made an additional attempt to contact the Licensee by telephone on January 14, 2016, which was also unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, based upon the affidavit of Francie Miller and the above stated conduct, the Board has concluded that Licensee's actions constitute unprofessional conduct and require emergency action, in that Licensee's actions may endanger the health and safety of those who are, or will be, entrusted to her care in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Board, has a statutory obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.
2. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the public health, safety and welfare require emergency action against Licensee's license.

3. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the actions of the Licensee endanger the public health, safety and welfare, and imperatively require emergency action in that Licensee may endanger the health and safety of those persons who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future and that these are matters of a nature that would constitute further grounds for discipline of her license to practice nursing under SDCL § 36-9-49 (5), (7) and (10).

4. Based upon these findings, Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota is hereby summarily suspended. Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for reinstatement of her license at any time for "good cause."

5. That Licensee shall turn in her license to the Board within ten (10) days from the date of this Order and it shall be kept by the Board until further action on this matter.

6. Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a registered nurse during the terms of this Order of Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-68.

7. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's newsletter and posted on its website and reported into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.

The South Board of Nursing met on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, and approved this Order of Summary Suspension by a vote of 9-0, and issues its Order of Summary Suspension consistent herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2016.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING



Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS  
Executive Director

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

The South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") pursuant to SDCL §§ 1-26-16, 1-26-27, and 1-26-29, hereby provides this Notice of Hearing to Heather J. Thomas, RN, License No. R035409 ("Licensee") as follows:

1. Hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension will take place before the Board on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at 1:30p.m. at the office of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
2. This matter is an adversarial proceeding and Licensee has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney. These due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing.
3. The hearing will address the Board's assertion, as set forth in its Summary Suspension, that the Licensee, by her conduct, violated SDCL §§ 36-9-49 (5), (7) and (10).
4. At the hearing, the Board will determine whether the Licensee's license shall be suspended, revoked or subject to other disciplinary action as determined by the evidence presented.

5. Licensee has a right to request that the agency use the Office of Hearing Examiners for this proceeding by giving notice of the request to the Board no later than ten (10) days after the service of this Notice of Hearing on Order of Summary Suspension.

6. A decision issued by the Board after the hearing may be appealed to the circuit court and to the state Supreme Court as provided by law.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2016.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING



Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS  
Executive Director