

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE :
PROCEEDINGS :
RE: DAWN D. ARMSTRONG, R.N., : **ORDER OF PROBATION**
 :
License No. R031384, :
 :
Licensee. :

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WHEREAS, Dawn D. Armstrong, RN, ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R031384; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee has admitted to suffering post-traumatic stress arising out of her nursing practice while employed at Queen of Peace Hospital. The Licensee has also admitted to experiencing significant situational stress while working on a busy oncology unit of a large hospital which led to practice issues, including medication errors and critical thinking deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee has engaged in remediation modules along with coaching and counseling through her employer in order to address the above issues; and

WHEREAS, Licensee's conduct as stated would be inconsistent with the health or safety of persons entrusted to her care and violates the rules and statutes regulating the practice of nursing and is in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49(5) and (7); and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (hereinafter "the Board") has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare as set forth in SDCL § 36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board has recommended that Licensee's licenses be placed on a one year period of probation in an effort to resolve this matter; now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.
2. That the Licensee's license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota is hereby placed on a probationary status for a period of twelve (12) months of active practice as a registered nurse.
3. The Licensee shall at any time during the period of probation report in person to such meetings of the Board or to its designated representative as directed and otherwise fully cooperate with the Board or its representatives in the terms of this probation.
4. Licensee shall provide quarterly reports to the South Dakota Board of Nursing from a worksite monitor, the Director of Nursing, and a self report.
5. The Licensee shall pay for all costs and expenses in carrying out conditions of probation.

6. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Order, the Licensee shall return her license to the Board office for it to be stamped "PROBATION".

7. That the Board of Nursing suggests that the Licensee undergo counseling in regards to her worksite stress and include reports of said counseling through her self reports to the Board.

8. If Licensee violates any terms of this probation, the Licensee agrees that the Board may take such action against Licensee's license(s) as the Board deems necessary, up to and including an immediate suspension, additional probationary terms, revocation, or other disciplinary action.

9. If Licensee obtains a license issued solely or under joint regulatory powers by the Board, other than the license to which this probation refers, at any time during the period of the probation, the terms of this probation shall apply to the other or additional license(s) issued by the Board.

10. Licensee shall not violate any law or regulation regarding the practice of nursing.

11. Licensee shall not practice nursing in any state other than South Dakota which is a party state to the Nurse Licensure Compact without prior written authorization from both the Board and the nursing regulatory authority in the party state in which the Licensee desires to practice.

12. This probation also affects Licensee's practice privilege to practice in South

Dakota should Licensee change her home state under the Nurse Licensure Compact and Licensee's practice privilege is subject to the same requirement set forth in this Order as her South Dakota license.

NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing Stipulation is entered into and is respectfully submitted to the Board which has adopted its terms as an order in the above matter.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Order of Probation was adopted by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 16th day of September, 2009 by a vote of 8-0.

Gloria Damgaard (by ijr)
Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director