

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE :
PROCEEDINGS :

RE: DEBORAH K. BENSON, R.N. : **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**
 : **CONSENT ORDER**

License No. R030143, :

Licensee. :

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WHEREAS, Deborah K. Benson, R.N. (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R030143; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on or about August 29, 2011, at the time of her license renewal, called the South Dakota Board of Nursing and self-reported issues with a substance use disorder involving alcohol and also disclosed two previous DUI arrests and a misdemeanor domestic assault charge. Licensee was encouraged by the Board staff to initiate participation in the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program (“HPAP”) prior to returning to work. Licensee enrolled in HPAP and signed a Voluntary Refrain from Practice on October 1, 2011. At an Informal Meeting with the Board of Nursing staff on October 13, 2011, the Licensee advised that she had quit her nursing job back on April 30, 2011, to address her issues with alcohol use and sought inpatient treatment. Licensee indicated that shortly after treatment, she had a relapse.

Subsequent to the Informal Meeting, Licensee, on or about November 7, 2011, self-reported to the Board another relapse and a subsequent DUI third; and

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WHEREAS, said Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota nursing license in order to address her current situation; and

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

WHEREAS, Licensee agrees that the matters under investigation would be of a nature that would constitute grounds for the discipline of her license to practice nursing in South Dakota under SDCL § 36-9-49; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee agrees that she enters into this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order voluntarily and without duress or compulsion, in full understanding of the legal consequences of this document and her rights; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.
2. That on or about August 29, 2011, Licensee, at the time of her license renewal, called the South Dakota Board of Nursing and self-reported issues with a substance use disorder involving alcohol and also disclosed two previous DUI arrests and a misdemeanor domestic assault charge. Licensee was encouraged by the Board staff to initiate participation in the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program (“HPAP”) prior to returning to work. Licensee enrolled in HPAP and signed a Voluntary Refrain from Practice on October 1, 2011. At an Informal Meeting with the Board of

Nursing staff on October 13, 2011, the Licensee advised that she had quit her nursing job back on April 30, 2011, to address her issues with alcohol use and sought inpatient treatment. Licensee indicated that shortly after treatment, she had a relapse.

Subsequent to the Informal Meeting, Licensee, on or about November 7, 2011, self-reported to the Board another relapse and a subsequent DUI third. Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota nursing license, and take steps necessary to address her current situation. She now intends to leave the profession of nursing as a registered nurse.

3. That the Licensee has been given an opportunity to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice, and is aware of her right to a hearing in this matter, and of her rights under the United States and South Dakota Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee hereby voluntarily waives all such rights to a hearing, notice, appearance, or any other rights under said Constitutions, laws, rules and/or regulations. Licensee also agrees that the Board's Executive Director or her designee may present this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order to the Board and disclose to the Board all items of her investigation, including, but not limited to, any communications with Licensee.

4. That the Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota and her privilege to practice nursing pursuant to the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be surrendered and the Board shall suspend said license for an indefinite period from the date of this Order. Licensee may apply to have her license reinstated for good cause shown.

5. That nothing in this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order should imply that the Licensee shall be reinstated. Licensee recognizes that the reinstatement terms, as well as the requirements for reinstatement, are at the sole discretion of the Board.

6. That if the Licensee requests reinstatement, Licensee has the burden of presenting information showing that Licensee's license should be reinstated.

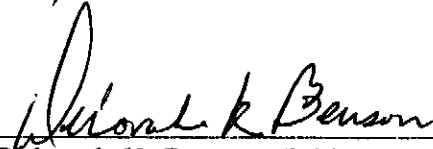
7. That it is further stipulated and agreed that this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is being entered into voluntarily by the Licensee and without threats or coercion and is entered into after the Licensee has been given ample opportunity to consider these matters and to discuss this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with an attorney of Licensee's choice and that the Licensee has a full understanding of the legal consequences of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order and of the Licensee's rights to a formal hearing on these matters, which rights are hereby waived by the signing of this Voluntary Surrender Consent Order.

8. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's newsletter and posted on its web site and reported into the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) and National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.

9. That the Board may enter an Order consistent with the terms of this Stipulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the foregoing Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is entered into and is respectfully submitted to the Board with the request that the Board adopt its terms as an Order of the Board in the above matter.


Dated this 11 day of January, 2012.



Deborah K. Benson, R.N.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 17th day of November, 2011, approved the attached Voluntary Surrender Consent Order as written by a vote of 8-0, and issues its Order as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is adopted as shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 30th day of January, 2012.



Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Nursing