SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: SHARON L. BLAIS, LPN

License No. P010439,

Licensee.

STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR PROBATION WITH REMEDIATION

WHEREAS, Sharon L. Blais, LPN ("Licensee"), holds a license to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota (License number P010439); and

WHEREAS, Licensee has admitted that on December 16, 2014, while working at a long term care facility, she made false reports to an emergency department and to a resident’s family following the unwitnessed fall of the resident; 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), (7), and (10); and

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

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (hereinafter "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, the Board has recommended that Licensee’s license be placed on a twenty-four (24) month period of probation with remediation in an effort to resolve this matter without the necessary of additional formal disciplinary proceedings and hearings; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this Stipulation to provide for a settlement of the licensing issues presented by the Licensee's conduct, in a professional manner, without the necessity of further hearings and proceedings herein, and to provide for a responsible solution; now, 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 Stipulation.

2. Licensee has admitted that on December 16, 2014, while working at a long term care facility, she made false reports to an emergency department and to a resident’s family following the unwitnessed fall of the resident. The Licensee agrees that her conduct violates SDCL § 36-9-49(5), (7) and (10), in that such conduct would be inconsistent with the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care and would violate provisions of the rules and statutes regulating the practice of nursing.

3. The Licensee has been given an opportunity to discuss this Stipulation with an attorney of Licensee's choice, and is aware of Licensee's right to a hearing in this matter, and of all 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 is entering into this Stipulation voluntarily and without duress or compulsion.
4. That from the date this Stipulation is signed, Licensee's license to practice nursing is placed upon a probationary status for an period of twenty-four (24) months of active practice as a nurse or employment in nursing practice. The probationary terms and conditions set by the Board shall be completely followed by the Licensee. After twenty-four (24) months of successful practice under the terms of this Order, and the completion of the remediation associated hereto, and successful completion of the terms of this order, Licensee's probation shall be closed. Licensee shall comply with the following during his probation:

**CONDITIONS**

1. Licensee shall at any time during the period of probation, report in person to such meetings of the Board or to its designated representatives as directed and otherwise fully cooperate with the Board or its representatives in the terms of this probation.

2. Licensee shall provide quarterly reports to the South Dakota Board of Nursing from her work site monitor, the Director of Nursing and a self-report.

3. Licensee shall complete learning modules on (1) Documentation: A Critical Aspect of Client Care; (2) Professional Accountability and Legal Liability for Nurses; (3) Disciplinary Actions What Every Nurse Should Know; and (4) Writing a Wrong: Ethics and Professional Wisdom in Nursing. The Licensee is responsible to purchase and complete these modules and return them to the Board office with a successful Certificate of Completion by **May 12, 2015**. Licensee can register for these modules on the following website:


4. Licensee shall pay for all costs and expenses in carrying out any conditions of this probation.
5. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of this Order, the Licensee shall submit her current renewal certificate to the Board office to be stamped “PROBATION”.

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

7. If Licensee obtains a license issued solely or under joint regulatory powers by the Board, other than the license to which this Stipulation 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.

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

9. 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.

10. 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 his South Dakota license.

11. During the term of this probation, the Licensee is to immediately inform the Board of the outcome of any criminal charges presently or hereafter pending against the Licensee, and whether the Licensee has been convicted, pled no contest, nolo contendere, pled
guilty to or been granted a deferred judgment or adjudication, suspended imposition of sentence with respect to a felony, misdemeanor or petty offense, other than minor traffic violations, that have not been previously reported to the Board.

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.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2015

Sharon L. Blais, LPN - License P-010439

The South Dakota Board of Nursing at its meeting on the 5th day of February, 2015, approved the terms and conditions of this probationary order by a vote of 7-0 with one recused.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Stipulation is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 19th day of February, 2015.

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director