SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: KATHRINA CLINE, L.P.N.

License No. P008790,

Licensee.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER OF SUSPENSION

The South Dakota Board of Nursing’s (“Board”) hearing on the Summary Suspension of the Kathrina Cline, L.P.N., license number P008790, (“Licensee”), came on for hearing before the South Dakota Board of Nursing at its office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on June 20, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. Licensee, Kathrina Cline, did not appear in person to present evidence on her behalf or confront witnesses. The Board appeared by and through its attorney, Kristine Kreiter O’Connell.

The Board considered the evidentiary testimony of Andrew Albers, Board of Nursing Program Specialist/Investigator. The Board also considered the Board of Nursing’s Exhibits, (numbered 1-5 inclusive), entered into evidence. The Board also considered the affidavit and other documents on file in this case and, being charged in this case with the 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, the Board hereby makes the following:
FINDINGS OF FACT

1. That Kathrina Cline is licensed to practice as a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number P008790.

2. That on or about July 21, 2004, it was recommended that Licensee contact the Health Professionals Assistance Program, (“HPAP”), in regards to reports of alleged mental health issues and chemical dependency.

3. On or about August 11, 2004, Licensee entered into a contract with HPAP. Since entering the program, Licensee’s compliance with HPAP has been marginal, but within monitoring guidelines.

4. On or about August 6, 2006, the Licensee terminated her employment at Fountain Springs Nursing Home.

5. Licensee signed a Voluntary Refrain from Practice through HPAP on or about December 27, 2006, due to the need for HPAP evaluation.

6. That on or about January 10, 2007, HPAP advised the Board of Nursing regarding the Voluntary Refrain and that the Licensee was again having mental health issues and admitted to using marijuana.

7. On or about February 21, 2007, notice was given to Licensee of an Informal Meeting with Board staff to be held on March 13, 2007.

8. On March 12, 2007, HPAP advised that the Licensee was admitted to the Rapid City Regional Mental Health Unit and was being transferred to the Human
Services Center in Yankton.

9. Licensee did not attend the Informal Meeting with Board staff that had been scheduled for March 13, 2007.

10. On April 18, 2007, the Licensee’s licensee to practice as a practical nurse was summarily suspended and notice provided of a Formal Hearing scheduled for June 20, 2007.

From the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board draws the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. That the South Dakota Board of Nursing has jurisdiction and authority over this matter pursuant to SDCL §§ 36-9-1.1 and 36-9-49.

2. The Licensee’s conduct as identified in the Findings of Fact is in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49.1.

THEREFORE, let an order be entered accordingly:

ORDER

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the South Dakota Board of Nursing hereby orders:

1. That Licensee’s license to practice nursing in the State of South Dakota is hereby indefinitely suspended.

2. That Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for a reinstatement of her license at any time for “good cause” with demonstration of
continuing participation in and compliance with the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program.

3. That the Licensee shall turn her license into the Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of this order.

4. That Licensee is hereby notified that any practice as or holding herself out as a practical nurse during the term of this suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-69.

Dated this 20th day of June, 2007.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

________________________
Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director

The above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were adopted by the South Dakota Board of Nursing on this 20th day of June, 2007, by a vote of 10-0.

Dated this 20th day of June, 2007.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

________________________
Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director