

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF LICENSURE :
 PROCEEDINGS :

RE: KEARSTIN N. FERGUSON, LPN, : **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**
 : **CONSENT ORDER**

License No. P010283, :

Licensee. :

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WHEREAS, Kearstin N. Ferguson, L.P.N. (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number P010283; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on or about January, 2009, Licensee submitted an application for nurse licensure by endorsement into the State of South Dakota. On her application, the Licensee disclosed a DUI in January, 2007. The standard criminal background check confirmed this.

In November, 2009, Licensee renewed her license but failed to answer the questions regarding past criminal charges. The Licensee was asked to submit a corrected application. On the corrected application, Licensee disclosed two additional DUI’s, one in April, 2009, and another in September, 2009. Licensee reported that she was awaiting sentencing on this third DUI for some time in spring of 2010.

In the meanwhile, the Licensee had begun counseling at Counseling Resources in Sioux Falls, beginning January 4, 2010. Her outpatient treatment continued until she was discharged on March 22, 2010. Licensee’s DSM IV diagnosis at the time of admission to

and discharge from Counseling Resources was alcohol dependance with physiological dependence, early full remission. Resource Counseling noted that Licensee had previous outpatient treatment in June, 2009 and had violated her 24-7 program on two occasions.

Licensee contacted the Health Professionals Assistance Program (“HPAP”) in May, 2010, and was accepted into the program on June 8, 2010. Licensee was suspended from HPAP for non-compliance on September 22, 2010.

Licensee has been convicted of a felony for her third DUI and has entered into inpatient treatment at TLC. She desires to successfully address her current situation; and

WHEREAS, Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota nursing license; 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,

ITS 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 the Licensee, on or about January, 2009, Licensee submitted an application for nurse licensure by endorsement into the State of South Dakota. On her application, the Licensee disclosed a DUI in January, 2007. The standard criminal background check confirmed this.

In November, 2009, Licensee renewed her license but failed to answer the questions regarding past criminal charges. The Licensee was asked to submit a corrected application. On the corrected application, Licensee disclosed two additional DUI's, one in April, 2009, and another in September, 2009. Licensee reported that she was awaiting sentencing on this third DUI for some time in spring of 2010.

In the meanwhile, the Licensee had begun counseling at Counseling Resources in Sioux Falls, beginning January 4, 2010. Her outpatient treatment continued until she was discharged on March 22, 2010. Licensee's DSM IV diagnosis at the time of admission to and discharge from Counseling Resources was alcohol dependance with physiological dependence, early full remission. Resource Counseling noted that Licensee had previous outpatient treatment in June, 2009 and had violated her 24-7 program on two occasions.

Licensee contacted the Health Professionals Assistance Program ("HPAP") in May, 2010, and was accepted into the program on June 8, 2010. Licensee was suspended from HPAP for non-compliance on September 22, 2010.

Licensee has been convicted of a felony for her third DUI and has entered into inpatient treatment at TLC. She desires to successfully address her current situation, and 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 Boards 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 16th day of November, 2010.

Kearstin N Ferguson
Kearstin N. Ferguson, L.P.N., Licensee

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 19th day of Nov, 2010,
approved (~~rejected~~) the attached Voluntary Surrender Consent Order as written (~~with~~)
the following modifications):

and issued its Order as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is
adopted shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 19th day of Nov
2010, by vote of 8-0.

Gloria Damgaard
Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Nursing