WHEREAS, Nichole Gjoraas, R.N. ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R029256; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on or about January 25, 2007, admittedly called in a prescription of hydrocodone for her husband without a doctor's order. Said activity was reported to the South Dakota Board of Nursing for investigation. Upon being contacted by the Board of Nursing investigator, Licensee became psychologically unstable becoming a threat to herself, which required hospitalization.

At an Informal Meeting held February 14, 2007, between the South Dakota Board of Nursing staff and Licensee, Licensee admitted to being on numerous prescriptions for chronic migraine headaches that she has suffered for the past eleven years. Licensee admitted to the narcotic profiles indicating the use of numerous schedule II narcotics over the past three years. Licensee advised that she has taken steps to enter into treatment programs that will 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 he 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 25, 2007, admittedly called in a prescription of hydrocodone for her husband without a doctor's order. Said activity was reported to the South Dakota Board of Nursing for investigation. Upon being contacted by the Board of Nursing investigator, Licensee became psychologically unstable becoming a threat to herself, which required hospitalization.

At an Informal Meeting held February 14, 2007, between the South Dakota Board of Nursing staff and Licensee, Licensee admitted to being on numerous prescriptions for
chronic migraine headaches that she has suffered for the past eleven years. Licensee admitted to the narcotic profiles indicating the use of numerous schedule II narcotics over the past three years. Licensee advised that she has taken steps to enter into treatment programs that will 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 Secretary 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 it’s web site and reported into the HIPDB and NPDB data banks 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 ___ day of March, 2007.

Nichele Gjoraas, R.N., Licensee

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 18th day of April, 2007, (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 18th day of April, 2007, by vote of 11-0.

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director
South Dakota Board of Nursing