

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE :
PROCEEDINGS :

RE: HEATHER L. LAIRD, LPN : **VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**
: **CONSENT ORDER**

License No. P-010869, :

Licensee. :

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WHEREAS, Heather L. Laird, LPN (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number P-010869; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 15, 2012, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (“Board”) entered its Order for Summary Suspension and noticed the Licensee for hearing arising out of an arrest and charge of felony abuse and neglect of an elderly person. Licensee went through her criminal process related to this charge with a trial ending in a hung jury. Thereafter, Licensee entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to one count of disorderly conduct (making unreasonable noise). Licensee made no admission of guilt and maintains her denial that anything improper happened; and

WHEREAS, Licensee, following conclusion of her criminal matter, contacted the Board in regard to the summary suspension of her nursing license and to discuss potential return to practice; and

WHEREAS, the Board having considered the matter, requested that the Licensee undergo a psychological evaluation. The evaluation was completed on February 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, said evaluation identified some psychological factors that would be expected to presently interfere with the Licensee's ability to practice nursing. The evaluation also indicated that once some of these symptoms were under control with appropriate treatment and therapy, this would enable the Licensee to function effectively as a nurse; and

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

WHEREAS, 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,