SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: HEATHER L. LAIRD, LPN

License No. P010869

Licensee.

ORDER OF REINSTATEMENT WITH MANDATED HPAP

WHEREAS, Heather L. Laird, LPN, ("License") is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number P010869; 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, on May 23, 2014, voluntarily surrendered her license with a Voluntary Surrender Consent Order entered by the Board on May 29, 2014. Said Voluntary Surrender Consent Order suspended the Licensee’s LPN license for an indefinite period subject to the reinstatement request pursuant to SDCL § 36-9-57, as the Board in its discretion may determine; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee made a reinstatement request in writing dated May 24, 2015, after which time the matter of Licensee’s reinstatement was presented to the Board. The Licensee submitted a report from Dr. Jackmon, as well as a letter of recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Board, after reviewing the information provided, on June 11, 2015, moved that the Licensee be evaluated by the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program (“HPAP”) and participate in the program if recommended by HPAP; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2015, HPAP sent a letter supporting the reinstatement of the Licensee based upon its evaluations and Licensee’s ongoing involvement and participation with HPAP; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the Licensee’s request and the documents submitted and being fully advised in the premises;
NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction over the person of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.

2. That the Licensee’s license to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota is hereby reinstated.

3. The Board hereby mandates Licensee’s continued participation in HPAP.

4. All terms and conditions as well as clearance to return to employment and any restrictions shall be set by the HPAP, and the Licensee shall fully comply with all of those terms and conditions.

5. Additionally, Licensee shall comply with the following conditions during the term of this order:

   **CONDITIONS**

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

   2. The Licensee shall notify the Board, as well as the HPAP, in writing, within one (1) week of any change in nursing employment, personal address, and/or telephone number.

   3. Licensee shall pay for all costs and expenses in carrying out conditions of HPAP.

   4. That within ten (10) days of the effective date of this order, Licensee shall be issued her LPN license by the Board office.
5. During the term of this order, 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 previously been reported to the Board.

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

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

8. The 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.

9. This order 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 requirements set forth in this order as her South Dakota license.
Order of Reinstatement with Mandated HPAP
Licensee: Heather L. Laird, LPN

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Order of Reinstatement with Mandated HPAP was adopted by the South Dakota Board of Nursing on the 20th day of November, 2015, by a vote of 7-0.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

[Signature]
Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Director