

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING**

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE :  
PROCEEDINGS :

RE: ANN MECHTENBERG, R.N. :

License No. R-028205, :

Licensee. :

**ORDER OF  
SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

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WHEREAS, Ann Mechtenberg, R.N., (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R-028205; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2006, the South Dakota Board of Nursing received a complaint from the Navajo Area Indian Health Service in Defiance, Arizona and from Dakota Medical Temps., Inc. in Hill City, South Dakota, alleging that Licensee had provided falsified letters of reference to prospective employers. Complainants had been contacted by these prospective employers, but had not provided any letter of reference for Licensee. After receiving the complaint, investigation was commenced.

As part of the investigative process, an Informal Meeting was scheduled with the Licensee. Licensee was unable to attend but, in lieu of appearance, she sent an e-mail dated April 26, 2006, admitting to submitting false letters of recommendation to prospective employers from persons she had asked to be her references.

As a result of this conduct, the South Dakota Board of Nursing, on June 30, 2006, issued a Letter of Reprimand with Remediation to the Licensee, which is reportable discipline.

In April, 2007, the Board of Nursing received a complaint from Licensee's then employer, Palisades Manor of Garretson, South Dakota, in regards to medication errors and possible diversion of narcotics. Thereafter, the Board of Nursing began an investigation into that complaint. Additional reports from Palisades Manor received on July 20, 2007, revealed that the Licensee had been disciplined for sleeping on the job, not responding to patient lights, leaving medication room doors open, not documenting appropriately, and other practice intervention issues.

On July 24, 2007, the Board of Nursing received another complaint from Licensee's then employer, Canton Good Samaritan Center alleging unsafe practice issues to include, but not limited to, medication errors, incorrect counting of narcotics (no diversion), and laboratory errors during her employment there from May 21, 2007, to July 3, 2007.

On July 25, 2007, an Informal Meeting was held with the Licensee at the South Dakota Board of Nursing office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Said minutes are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

At the Informal Meeting, Licensee denied any addiction to prescription medication and denied diversion of narcotics. Licensee did admit to the list of unsafe practice issues