SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: NATALIE J. PRAY, R.N.

License No. R031294,

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Natalie J. Pray, R.N. ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R031294; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2008 the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") accepted a Voluntary Surrender Consent Order that was signed by the Licensee in April 2008 arising out of her admission to diversion of narcotics and repeated chemical dependency treatment. Said Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein; and

WHEREAS, Licensee, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-57, made a reinstatement request to the Board on February 26, 2010, at which time the matter of Licensee’s reinstatement was presented to the Board. The Licensee presented documentation and letters supporting reinstatement and also provided an evaluation report from the Health Professionals Assistance Program ("HPAP") dated January 21, 2010. The Licensee and Char Skovlund of HPAP provided testimony and answered questions in regards to the reinstatement request and HPAP’s report and recommendation;
WHEREAS, after the Board considered the Licensee’s request, the statement provided by the Licensee, the previous Order, and the HPAP report, as well as Licensee’s own testimony, the Board of Nursing, on February 26, 2010, issued an Order of Reinstatement with Probation to said Licensee. The Board, as part of the probation, mandated Licensee’s continued participation in the HPAP for a period of five years of active nursing practice, with credit given for HPAP participation already served. Licensee’s Order of Reinstatement with Probation is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein;

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2010, the HPAP Program Director notified the Board in writing of concerns identified in August 2010 by the Licensee’s Director of Nursing in regards to Licensee’s increased depression. HPAP had Licensee refrain from practice and met with her to discuss her behavioral health issues. In addition, Licensee’s urinalysis came back positive for cocaine. Thereafter, on September 14, 2010, Licensee again admitted herself to the New Life Treatment Center but was discharged as the Center determined that Licensee could not benefit from chemical dependency treatment there due to her depression. Licensee was thereafter admitted to Avera Behavioral Health Hospital and discharged on September 30, 2010. Licensee is currently awaiting approval to enter into a chemical dependency treatment program; Licensee at this time has again agreed to surrender her South Dakota Nursing License in order to address her current situation; 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,

IT 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 on May 5, 2008, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (“Board”) 
accepted a Voluntary Surrender Consent Order that was signed by the Licensee in April 
2008 arising out of her admission to diversion of narcotics and repeated chemical 
dependency treatment. Said Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is hereby incorporated 
by reference as if set forth fully herein.

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and also provided an evaluation report from the Health Professionals Assistance Program
(“HPAP”) dated January 21, 2010. The Licensee and Char Skovlund of HPAP provided testimony and answered questions in regards to the reinstatement request and HPAP’s report and recommendation.

After the Board considered the Licensee’s request, the statement provided by the Licensee, the previous Order, and the HPAP report, as well as Licensee’s own testimony, the Board of Nursing, on February 26, 2010, issued an Order of Reinstatement with Probation to said Licensee. The Board, as part of the probation, mandated Licensee’s continued participation in the HPAP for a period of five years of active nursing practice, with credit given for HPAP participation already served. Licensee’s Order of Reinstatement with Probation is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

On October 20, 2010, the HPAP Program Director notified the Board, in writing, of concerns identified in August 2010 by the Licensee’s Director of Nursing in regards to Licensee’s increased depression. HPAP had Licensee refrain from practice and met with her to discuss her behavioral health issues. In addition, Licensee’s urinalysis came back positive for cocaine. Thereafter, on September 14, 2010, Licensee again admitted herself to the New Life Treatment Center but was discharged as the Center determined that Licensee could not benefit from chemical dependency treatment there due to her depression. Licensee was thereafter admitted to Avera Behavioral Health Hospital and discharged on September 30, 2010. Licensee is currently awaiting approval to enter into
a chemical dependency treatment program, 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
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 its website 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 19th day of February, 2011.

Natalie Pray
Natalie J. Pray, R.N., Licensee

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 27th day of January, 2011, approved the attached Voluntary Surrender Consent Order as written by a vote of 9-0, and therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is adopted shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 23rd day of February, 2011.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director