SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS

RE: LOREE N. PRICE, RN

License No. R-024780,

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Loree N. Price, RN ("Licensee"), is a licensed registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License Number R-024780; and

WHEREAS, in early, 2003, Licensee had a legal prescription for Fentanyl patches for her back pain; and

WHEREAS, on or about March 9, 2003, the Licensee provided several Fentanyl patches to a third party who subsequently utilized the patch and died of Fentanyl and Diltiazem toxicity; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee admitted to tampering with evidence of the Fentanyl patch on the decedent third party; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee was initially untruthful with law enforcement in its investigation into the death of the third party; and

WHEREAS, the Licensee on April 22, 2004, was indicted by the federal grand jury for knowingly and intentionally distributing Fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and § 841(b)(1)(C); and
WHEREAS, the Licensee on January 20, 2005, pled guilty to the above offense and was fined and imprisoned in the federal prison system for a term of twelve (12) months and one day beginning on February 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Licensee’s conduct as stated would be inconsistent with the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care and violates the statutes, rules and regulations regarding the practice of nursing and is in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49(2), (7) and (10); and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (hereinafter the “Board”) has a statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare as set forth in SDCL § 36-9, including the protection of the public for unsafe nursing practices and practitioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered:

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

2. That based upon the above, the Board specifically finds that the public health, safety, and welfare require emergency action against Licensee’s license.

3. That based on these findings, the Licensee’s license to practice nursing in South Dakota is hereby suspended.

4. The Licensee shall turn in her license to the Board within ten (10) days from the date of this Order and it shall be kept by the Board until further action on this matter.
5. The Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a registered nursing during the term of this Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-68.

6. That the Licensee will be scheduled for formal hearing on this Summary Suspension upon her release from prison and upon notification of a release to the Board.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 8th day of April, 2005, approved this Order of Summary Suspension as written without modification and issues its Order of Summary Suspension consistent herein.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 8th day of April, 2005, by a vote of 9-0.

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Secretary
South Dakota Board of Nursing