The South Dakota Board of Nursing’s ("Board") hearing on the Summary Suspension of the license of the Licensee, Loree N. Price, RN, license number R-024780, ("Licensee"), came for hearing before the South Dakota Board of Nursing at its office in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on September 15, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. Licensee, Loree N. Price, having received notice of the hearing, and having been given the opportunity to confront Board witnesses and to present evidence on her behalf, did not appeared in person nor by an attorney. The Board appeared by and through its attorney, Kristine K. O’Connell.

The Board considered the evidentiary testimony of Kathleen Rausch, Board Investigator. The Board, being charged with the statutory obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare as set forth in SDCL § 36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners, the Board hereby makes the following:
FINDINGS OF FACT

1. That Loree N. Price is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R-024780.

2. That Licensee’s license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota was placed under an Order of Summary Suspension on April 8, 2005 following a conviction for distributing Fentanyl, as Schedule II controlled substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and § 841(b)(1)(C) and imprisonment in the federal prison system.

3. That said Order of Summary Suspension ordered Licensee to notify the Board of Nursing following her release from prison so that a formal hearing on her Summary Suspension could be held.

4. Licensee did not notify the Board of her release from prison; no hearing was ever scheduled.

5. The Board, in effort to resolve this case, contacted the Licensee on or about February 3, 2010. Licensee indicated that she did not desire a hearing and was willing to enter into a Voluntary Surrender Consent Order with the Board of Nursing.

6. Licensee was provided a Voluntary Surrender Consent Order document to review and sign. As of July 10, 2010, Licensee had not returned the Voluntary Surrender Consent Order. The Board proceeded to notice her for a hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension.
From the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board draws the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. That the Board has jurisdiction and authority over this matter pursuant to SDCL §§ 36-9-1.1 and 36-9-49.

2. That the Licensee conduct as identified in the Findings of Fact are inconsistent with health and safety of persons entrusted to her care and violates the statutes, rules and regulations regarding the practice of nursing and are in violation of SDCL § 36-9-49(2),(5), (7) and (10).

THEREFORE, let an order be entered accordingly:

ORDER

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the South Dakota Board of Nursing hereby orders:

1. That the Licensee’s license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota is hereby indefinitely suspended.

2. That the Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for reinstatement of her license at any time for “good cause”.

3. That the Licensee shall turn in her license to the Board of Nursing within ten (10) days of the date of this Order.
4. That the Licensee is hereby notified that any practice as, or holding herself out as, a registered nurse during the terms of this suspension is in violation of SDCL § 36-9-69.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2010.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

[Signature]

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director

IT IS NOW HEREBY ORDERED:

That the above Finding of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order of Suspension were adopted by the South Dakota Board of Nursing on the 15th day of September, 2010 by a vote of 9 – 0.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2010.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

[Signature]

Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director