SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE PROCEEDINGS,

RE: BRENDA K. RUNGE, RN,

License No. R-033482

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Brenda K. Runge, R.N. ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds License number R-033482; and

WHEREAS, said Licensee on or about October 2005, the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") mandated Licensee into the Health Professionals Assistance Program ("HPAP") for felony diversion of Lortab from her place of employment in Brookings, South Dakota. Licensee participated in outpatient chemical dependency treatment and began participation in aftercare programs as well as her participation in the HPAP; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2007, the Minnesota Board of Nursing entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order signed by the Licensee on September 10, 2007, which suspended her LPN license subject to a minimum of one (1) year of documented uninterrupted sobriety, demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence as set forth in the Consent Order (See Stipulation and Consent Order issued by the Minnesota Board of Nursing dated October 11, 2007, as if set forth fully herein); and
WHEREAS, on October 11, 2007, Licensee received a Letter of Concern from the
South Dakota Board of Nursing for poor compliance with the HPAP; and

WHEREAS, Licensee, thereafter, remained compliant with HPAP until June 30,
2009, when her quarterly reports were in excess of thirty-two points as a result of missed
daily call-ins, a positive urine test for Tramadol without confirmation of a prescription, and non-compliance with required drug screens and reports/documentation. Licensee requested to opt out of the drug screen requirement; and HPAP cannot agree to her request; and

WHEREAS, Licensee has agreed that she would surrender her South Dakota
nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board of Nursing 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,
ITS 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 or about October 2005, the South Dakota Board of Nursing mandated Licensee into the HPAP for felony diversion of Lortab from her place of employment in Brookings, South Dakota. Licensee participated in outpatient chemical dependency treatment and began participation in aftercare programs as well as her participation in the HPAP.

On October 11, 2007, the Minnesota Board of Nursing entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order signed by the Licensee on September 10, 2007, which suspended her LPN license subject to a minimum of one (1) year of documented uninterrupted sobriety, demonstrated by a preponderance of evidence as set forth in the Consent Order.

On October 11, 2007, Licensee also received a Letter of Concern from the South Dakota Board of Nursing for her poor compliance with the HPAP.

Licensee thereafter remained compliant with HPAP until June 30, 2009, when her quarterly reports were in excess of thirty-two points as a result of missed daily call-ins, a positive urine test for Tramadol without confirmation of a prescription, and non-compliance with required drug screens and reports/documentation. Licensee requested to opt out of the drug screen requirement; and HPAP cannot agree to her request.
Licensee indicates that she 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 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 Boards Newsletter and posted on its web site and reported into the HIPDB and NPDB data banks 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 38th day of September, 2009.

Brenda K. Runge, R.N., Licensee

The South Dakota Board of Nursing meeting on the 16th day of Sept., 2009, approved the attached Voluntary Surrender Consent Order (as written) with the following modifications:

and issued its Order as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above Voluntary Surrender Consent Order is adopted shown herein by the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 16th day of Sept., 2009, by vote of 9-0.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Dangaard, Executive Director