

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
ALEXANDRA LEIGH ASHWORTH	*	MARYLAND BOARD
License No: 24649	*	OF PHARMACY
Respondent	*	Case No.: 22-146

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't ("St. Gov't") § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Md. Code Regs. ("COMAR") 10.34.01.12, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby summarily suspends the license to practice as a pharmacist in Maryland issued to **ALEXANDRA LEIGH ASHWORTH** ("the Respondent") under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS¹

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland, license number 24649. The Respondent was first licensed as a pharmacist on or about November 22, 2016. The Respondent's license expires on April 30, 2024.

2. The Respondent was employed at a national chain pharmacy (the "Pharmacy")² in

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for the Board's action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in this matter.

² To ensure confidentiality, proper names are not set forth in this document. The names are available to the Respondent upon request to the Administrative Prosecutor.

Baltimore, Maryland at all relevant times hereto.

3. On or about December 2, 2021, the Board received information from the Pharmacy that the Respondent had been terminated from her employment at the Pharmacy for filling fraudulent prescriptions for amphetamine salts for personal use.

4. According to a report (“Report”) by the Pharmacy’s District Asset Protection Leader (“Leader”), the Leader initiated an investigation based on the discovery that amphetamine salts (20 mg) prescriptions (“Prescriptions”) that had been marked “Returned to Stock” were found to be missing from the Pharmacy safe. The Leader found that 32 prescriptions for amphetamine salts had been prescribed to eleven different patients and dispensed by the Respondent. Of the 32 prescriptions, 18 were for amphetamine salts 20 mg, for a total of 1,759 tablets; and, 14 prescriptions were for amphetamine salts 30 mg, for a total of 1,324 tablets. Thirty of the 32 prescriptions were purchased by the Respondent using her personal credit cards.

5. According to the Report, the 32 prescriptions were issued under 11 different prescribers. A Pharmacy employee (“Employee 1”) contacted the physician prescribers and validated that the six physicians had not written the prescriptions for the patients and none of the patients were patients of the six physicians.³

6. On or about November 29, 2021, the Leader conducted an interview of the Respondent. During the interview, the Respondent admitted to the Leader that she had purchased the 30 prescriptions of amphetamine salts for personal use or to get them off

³ It is unclear, based on the information received from the Pharmacy, when and if the Leader or another employee contacted the other 5 prescribers.

the “waiting bin report.” The Respondent also admitted that she created the 11 patient profiles.

7. On November 29, 2021, the Respondent signed a written statement that included the following information:

- a. She filled scripts under different patients to manipulate the “waiting bin” and “some for personal use.”
- b. She did not have valid prescriptions from doctors and fraudulently created the prescriptions for the 32 prescriptions she filled for the eleven patient names for the amphetamine salts 20 mg and 30 mg between January 2020 and November 2021.
- c. The patient names she used were not friends. The names were of real patients but with different dates of birth and were not filed under any actual patient account. She did not create the fraudulent patient profiles just for the sole purpose of the 32 fraudulent prescriptions. Some of the fraudulent patient profiles were created to account for expired inventory or waiting bin loss.
- d. She fraudulently created the prescriptions because “pressures of the position was affecting [her].”
- e. Three prescriptions for amphetamine salts that she filled in November 2021 were taken from the “waiting bin.”
- f. Of the 32 prescriptions of amphetamine salts that she filled, she paid for 29 of them using seven different credit cards that were tied to her Pharmacy discount card. Not all of the 29 prescriptions were for her personal use.
- g. She was responsible for the life cycle of the thirty two prescriptions that she fraudulently filled, verified, purchased, and/or stole from the waiting bin.
- h. She denied giving or selling the amphetamine salts to anyone.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol.) and COMAR 10.34.01.12.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is therefore this 27th day of April, 2022, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board, hereby

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority granted to the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't 20-226(c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), the license held by the Respondent, **ALEXANDRA LEIGH ASHWORTH**, to practice as a pharmacist in Maryland, License No.: 24649, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is prohibited from practicing as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately turn over to the Board her wall certificate and wallet-sized license to practice as a Pharmacist issued by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be in writing and made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS**; and it is further

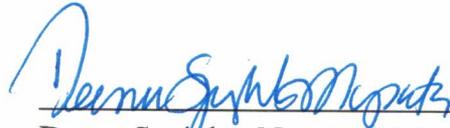
ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation

show cause hearing but fails to appear when scheduled, the Respondent's license will remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION** is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2019 Vol. and 2021 Supp.).

April 27, 2022

Date



Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director
For Jennifer Hardesty, Pharm.D.
President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy