

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
ALEXANDRA L. ASHWORTH	*	MARYLAND BOARD
License No. 24649	*	OF PHARMACY
RESPONDENT	*	Case No. 22-146
* * * * *	*	* * * * *

CONSENT ORDER

Procedural Background

Based on information received and a subsequent investigation by the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”), and subject to the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101, *et seq.*, and the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t §§ 10-201 *et seq.*, the Board issued an Order for Summary Suspension dated April 27, 2022, in which it summarily suspended the pharmacist license held by Alexandra L. Ashworth (the “Respondent”). Specifically, the Board found reliable evidence demonstrated that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively required emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t §10-226(c)(2).

On July 13, 2022, the Board held a remote hearing before a quorum of the Board to allow the Respondent the opportunity to show cause why the Respondent did not pose an imminent threat to the health, safety and welfare of the public. In lieu of a continued summary suspension, the Respondent and the Board agreed to resolve the matter by way of this Consent Order with the terms contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a pharmacist in the State of Maryland under License Number 24649.
2. The Respondent was initially issued a license to practice pharmacy in Maryland on or about November 22, 2016.
3. At all relevant times, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacist at a community pharmacy ("Pharmacy A") in Baltimore, Maryland.
4. On or about December 2, 2021, the Board received information from Pharmacy A indicating that the Respondent had been terminated from her employment for filling fraudulent prescriptions for amphetamine salts for personal use.
5. Pharmacy A reported that it had initiated an investigation based on the discovery that certain amphetamine prescriptions (20 mg) marked "Return to Stock" were missing from the pharmacy safe. Pharmacy A's internal investigation determined that 32 prescriptions for amphetamine salts had been prescribed to 11 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 were for amphetamine salts 30 mg, totaling 1,324 tablets. Thirty of the 32 prescriptions were purchased by the Respondent using her personal credit cards.
6. On November 29, 2021, the Respondent signed a written statement which included the following admissions:
 - a. She filled prescriptions under different patient names to manipulate the waiting bin and "some for personal use."
 - b. She fraudulently created the 32 prescriptions under 11 patient names for amphetamine salts between January 2020 and November 2021.
 - c. The patient names she used were not friends. The names were those of real patients, but she used incorrect dates of birth and did not file the prescriptions under an actual patient account. Some of the fraudulent patient profiles were

- created to manipulate the waiting bin and expired inventory, in addition to fraudulently obtaining prescriptions for personal use.
- d. She created fraudulent prescriptions because of “pressures of the position...”
 - e. Of the 32 fraudulent prescriptions filled by the Respondent, the Respondent paid for 29 using seven different credit cards tied to her pharmacy discount card.
 - f. She denied selling or giving the amphetamine salts to anyone.
7. The Respondent has undergone treatment and monitoring since March 2022 and has been compliant with her treatment and monitoring conditions, which include group therapy and random urine screens.
8. To date, there is no criminal proceeding pending against the Respondent relating to this matter.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-313(b)(2), (7), (21) and (25), and COMAR 10.34.10.01A(1).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, by a majority vote of the Board it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Order of Summary Suspension, dated April 27, 2022, was properly issued; and be it further,

ORDERED that the public health and safety is not at risk by the Respondent provided that the Respondent fully complies with terms and conditions set forth herein; and be it further,

ORDERED that, upon execution of this Consent Order, the summary suspension imposed in the Board's Order for Summary Suspension, dated April 27, 2022, is hereby **LIFTED**; and be it further,

ORDERED that the Respondent's license shall be placed on **SUSPENSION**, effective April 27, 2022, for at least **ONE (1) YEAR**, during which time the Respondent:

1. Shall continue the rehabilitation contract with the Pharmacy Rehabilitation Services ("PRS") committee;

2. Shall submit to random weekly urine screens for substances and alcohol as a condition of the PRS contract;

3. Shall continue to engage in group therapy sessions at a frequency determined by PRS;

4. Shall comply with any and all other treatment and monitoring conditions imposed as part of the PRS contract;

5. Shall ensure PRS submits monthly progress reports to the Board regarding the Respondent's compliance with the PRS contract;

6. Shall execute any and all releases necessary to allow PRS and the Board to access medical and SUD treatment information for purposes of monitoring and enforcement of this Order and the PRS contract; and be it further,

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately return the Respondent's pharmacist license to the Board; and be it further,

ORDERED that the Respondent may petition the Board to lift the suspension of her license after one (1) year, commencing April 27, 2022, provided that the Respondent has fully complied with all conditions of the PRS contract and this Order, and the Respondent does not have any pending complaints against her; and be it further.

ORDERED that in the event that the Board lifts the suspension of the Respondent's license, the Board shall place the Respondent's license on immediate PROBATION for at least THREE (3) YEARS with terms and conditions to be determined at the time; and be it further,

ORDERED that the Respondent shall bear all costs for compliance with the terms of this Order; and be it further,

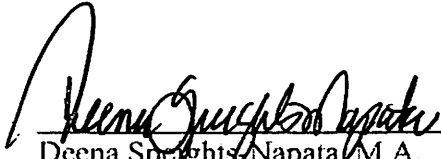
ORDERED that the Respondent shall at all times cooperate with the Board in its monitoring, supervision, and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that the Respondent's failure to fully cooperate with the Board shall be deemed a violation of the terms of suspension and a violation of this Order; and be it further,

ORDERED that in the event the Board finds for any good faith reason that the Respondent has violated any of the conditions of suspension herein, or in the event that the Board finds for any good faith reason that the Respondent has committed a violation of Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article or regulations adopted thereunder, the Board may take further disciplinary action, to include summary suspension, against the Respondent's license, provided that the Respondent is given notice and an opportunity for a hearing; and be it further,

ORDERED that this is a final order of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy and as such is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Prov. Art., §4-333.

8-11-22
Date


Deena Speights Napata, M.A.
Executive Director

CONSENT

By signing this Consent, I hereby consent to the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and agree to be bound by the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions.

1. By this Consent, I submit to the foregoing Consent Order as a resolution of this matter. By signing this Consent, I waive any rights I may have had to contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained in this Consent Order.

2. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if it were made after a hearing in which I would have had the right to counsel, to confront witnesses on my own behalf, and to all other substantial procedural protections provided by law.

3. I acknowledge the legal authority and the jurisdiction of the Board to enter and enforce this Consent Order.

4. I acknowledge that, by entering into this Consent Order, I am waiving my right to appeal any adverse ruling of the Board that might have followed an evidentiary hearing.

5. I sign this Consent Order freely and voluntarily, after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel. I fully understand the language, meaning, and effect of this Consent Order.

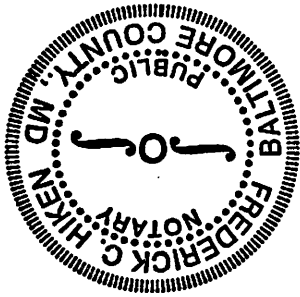
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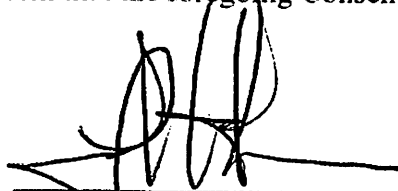


Alexandra L. Ashworth

STATE OF MARYLAND
COUNTY/CITY OF _____:

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of _____, 2022, before me, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland and County/City aforesaid, personally appeared ALEXANDRA L. ASHWORTH, and made an oath in due form that the foregoing Consent was her voluntary act and deed.





Notary Public
My commission expires: 3/22/25