

IN THE MATTER OF	*	BEFORE THE
AMBER LYNN COFFREN	*	MARYLAND STATE
Registration Number: T26600	*	BOARD OF PHARMACY
Respondent	*	Case Number: 24-332
* * * * *		

**FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION OF
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION**

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) notified **AMBER LYNN COFFREN** (the “Respondent”), Registration Number **T26600**, of the Board’s intent to revoke her registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland pursuant to the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the “Act”), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.).

The Notice also informed the Respondent that unless she requested a hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of said Notice, the Board would sign the Final Order, which was enclosed. More than thirty (30) days have elapsed, and the Respondent failed to timely request a hearing. Therefore, this revocation is final.

The Board bases its action on the Respondent’s violation of the following provisions of the Act:

§ 12-6B-09. Ground for reprimand or denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of registration.

Subject to the hearing provision of § 12-315 of this title, the Board may deny a pharmacy technician's registration to any applicant, reprimand a registered pharmacy technician, place any pharmacy technician's registration on probation, or suspend or revoke a pharmacy technician's registration if the applicant or pharmacy technician registrant:

...

(3) Fraudulently uses a pharmacy technician's registration;

...

(27) Participates in any activity that is grounds for Board action under § 12-313 or § 12-409 of this title[.]

With respect to Health Occ. § 12-6B-09(27), the underlying grounds for Board action under § 12-313 include:

(25) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

With respect to Health Occ. § 12-313(25), the pertinent provisions of the regulations adopted by the Board are as follows:

COMAR 10.34.10.01 Patient Safety and Welfare.

A. A pharmacist shall:

(1) Abide by all federal and State laws relating to the practice of pharmacy and the dispensing, distribution, storage, and labeling of drugs and devices, including but not limited to:

(a) United States Code, Title 21,

(b) Health-General Article, Titles 21 and 22, Annotated Code of Maryland,

(c) Health Occupations Article, Title 12, Annotated Code of Maryland,

(d) Criminal Law Article, Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, and

(e) COMAR 10.19.03[.]

...

B. A pharmacist may not:

- (1) Engage in conduct which departs from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by pharmacist;
- (2) Practice pharmacy under circumstances or conditions which prevent the proper exercise of professional judgment; or
- (3) Engage in unprofessional conduct.

COMAR 10.34.20.04. Controlled Dangerous Substances.

Transmission and dispensing of controlled dangerous substances shall be in accordance with applicable State and federal statutes and regulations.

COMAR 10.19.03.09. Controlled Substances Listed in Schedule III, IV, and V.

A. Requirement of Prescriptions Listed in Schedules III, IV, and V (21 CFR §1306.21).

- (1) A pharmacist may dispense directly a controlled dangerous substance listed in Schedules III, IV, or V, which is a prescription drug as determined under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, or State Law, only pursuant to either a written prescription signed by a prescribing individual practitioner or a facsimile received by facsimile equipment of a written, signed prescription transmitted by the practitioner or the practitioner's agent to the pharmacy or pursuant to an oral prescription made by a prescribing individual practitioner and immediately reduced to writing by the pharmacist containing all information required in Regulation .07 of this chapter, except the signature of the prescribing individual practitioner.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally registered

to practice as a pharmacy technician in Maryland on April 26, 2022, under registration number T26600. The Respondent's registration expired on July 31, 2023.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacy technician at a pharmacy (the "Pharmacy")¹ located in Charles County, Maryland.

3. On December 15, 2022, the Board received a DEA Form 106 (Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances) from the Pharmacy. According to the form, the Respondent "admitted to stealing 10-20 tablets of Zolpidem,² 20-30 tablets of Alprazolam³ 1mg, and approximately 50 units of Alprazolam 2mg. [The Respondent] was terminated. Further losses were found for these medications, and [the Pharmacy] suspect[s] that [the Respondent] is responsible for the additional medication lost." The form identified losses totaling 1,610 Alprazolam 2mg tablets, 1,101 Alprazolam 1mg tablets; 291 Zolpidem Tartrate 12.5mg tablets; 384 Zolpidem Tartrate 10mg tablets; and 48 Zolpidem Tartrate 5mg tablets.

4. According to a case narrative from the Pharmacy, in or around October 2022, the Pharmacy discovered drug losses of Alprazolam 1mg and 2mg. The Pharmacy investigated and conducted interviews but could not determine the cause. Within three weeks of the interviews, the Pharmacy discovered a missing bottle containing 499 tablets of Alprazolam 2mg. Surveillance video from November 5, 2022, showed that, while

¹ In order to maintain confidentiality, names of individuals and facilities involved in this matter will not be used in this document but will be provided to the Respondent on request.

² Zolpidem, a Schedule IV controlled substance, is used to treat insomnia.

³ Alprazolam, a Schedule IV controlled substance, is used to treat anxiety disorders and panic disorder.

discarding a trash bag, the Respondent utilized the trash bag to conceal and take the missing bottle.

5. The Pharmacy conducted an interview of the Respondent on November 9, 2022. According to the Pharmacy, during the interview the Respondent “admitted to taking drugs from the pharmacy on multiple occasions.” The Respondent did not know how often she took drugs or the quantity but “would be comfortable admitting [to taking] 10-20 units of Zolpidem and 20-30 units of the Alprazolam 1mg and around 50 units of the Alprazolam 2mg.” The Respondent admitted that she took the missing bottle of Alprazolam 2mg on November 5, 2022, but denied knowing the quantity it contained.

6. The Respondent agreed to admit to taking drugs worth \$400.00; however, the Pharmacy identified the total loss as being “approximately 2700 units and approximately \$1800 in monetary value.”

7. Based on the above information, the Board has reason to believe that the Respondent diverted multiple controlled dangerous substances while employed as a pharmacy technician at the Pharmacy.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent’s actions constitute: fraudulently using a pharmacy technician’s registration, in violation of Health Occ. § 12-6B-09(3); and participating in any activity that is grounds for Board action under § 12-313 or § 12-409 of Title 12 of the Health Occupations Article, in violation of 12-6B-09(27), in that the Respondent violated Health Occ. § 12-313(25) by

violating COMAR 10.34.10.01.A(1)(a)-(e), COMAR 10.34.10.01.B(1)-(3), COMAR 10.34.20.04, and COMAR 10.19.03.09.A(1).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 20th day of NOVEMBER 2024, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby


ORDERED that the Respondent's, **AMBER LYNN COFFREN'S**, registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland is hereby **REVOKED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall return to the Board all Maryland pharmacy technician registrations within ten (10) days of the date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that the effective date of this Order is the date that it is signed by the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this document constitutes a formal disciplinary action of the Board and this Order is final and a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* & § 4-333 (2019 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.).

11/20/24
Date



Kristopher Rusinko, PharmD
Board President
Maryland Board of Pharmacy

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

In accordance with §12-316 of the Act and Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-201 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.), you have the right to a direct judicial appeal of this

decision. A petition for appeal of the Final Board Order shall be filed within thirty (30) days from your receipt of this Final Order and shall be made in accordance with the aforesaid authority.