

**IN THE MATTER OF
LAKESHA A. DENNIS**

Respondent

Registration Number: T04520

*** BEFORE THE
* MARYLAND STATE
* BOARD OF PHARMACY
* Case Number: 24-203**

* * * * *

FINAL ORDER

On September 23, 2024 the Maryland State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") notified **LAKESHA A. DENNIS** (the "Respondent"), Registration Number: **T04520**, of its intent to revoke her registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ.") §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2023 Supp.) and the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR").

The pertinent provisions of the Act and COMAR provide:

Health Occ. § 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 . . . pharmacy technician registrant:

...

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

...

(22) Pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been found guilty of, a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, regardless of whether:

(i) An adjudication of guilt or sentencing or imposition of sentence is withheld; or

- (ii) (ii) Any appeal or other proceeding is pending regarding the matter [and]

...

- (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[.]

The pertinent provision of the regulations adopted by the Board is as follows:

COMAR 10.34.10.01 Patient Safety and Welfare

B. A pharmacist may not: . . .

- (3) Engage in unprofessional conduct.

In its Notice, the Board informed the Respondent that she had the opportunity to request a hearing before the Board by submitting a request in writing to the Board's Executive Director within thirty days of service of the Notice. More than thirty days have elapsed since the service of the Notice on the Respondent, and the Respondent has not requested a hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board makes the following Findings of Fact:

Background

1. At all times relevant, the Respondent was registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in Maryland on or about March 16, 2009, under

registration number T04520. The Respondent's registration is set to expire on February 28, 2025, subject to renewal.

2. At all times relevant, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacy technician at a pharmacy (the "Pharmacy")¹ located in Towson, Maryland, until her termination from employment on or about November 14, 2023.

Complaint

3. On or about November 14, 2023, the Board received a complaint from the Pharmacy stating that on the same date, the Pharmacy terminated the Respondent's employment as a pharmacy technician for suspected theft of controlled substances. The Pharmacy further stated that it reported the theft to the Baltimore County Police Department and provided the police report number.

4. Based on the Complaint, the Board began an investigation of the Respondent.

Board Investigation

5. In furtherance of its investigation, the Board obtained audit logs from the Pharmacy and the court record from the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland.

6. A review of the court record revealed that on or about January 29, 2024, the Respondent was indicted by a grand jury in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland, under Criminal Case Number: C-03-CR-24-000457, with one count of Controlled Dangerous Substance ("CDS") Possession with Intent to Distribute, two counts

¹ To ensure confidentiality, the names of individuals, patients and facilities involved in this case, other than the Respondent's, are not disclosed in this document.

of CDS Possession – Not Cannabis, one count of felony Theft Scheme and two counts of misdemeanor Theft.

7. According to the Application for Statement of Charges in the court record, on or about November 13, 2023, officers from the Baltimore County Police Department responded to a report of theft from the Pharmacy. On arrival, a staff member (the “Staff Member”) at the Pharmacy stated that an internal audit by the Pharmacy revealed that the Respondent, a pharmacy technician at the Pharmacy, created duplicate prescriptions for oxycodone 15 mg based on existing patient prescriptions and took possession of the extra medications. The Staff Member stated that based on the Pharmacy’s initial audit, 500 pills of oxycodone 15 mg were filled from the duplicate prescriptions and missing.

8. On or about November 14, 2023, officers from the Baltimore County Police Department executed a search and seizure warrant at the Respondent’s residence with the Respondent present. During the execution of the search warrant and after being Mirandized, the Respondent told the officers that she created the duplicate prescriptions and took the extra oxycodone because she was struggling with pain. The Pharmacy’s final audit showed that as of December 2023, 500 pills of oxycodone 15 mg, 100 pills of oxycodone 10 mg and 100 pills of oxycodone 5 mg were missing.

9. On or about July 15, 2024, the Respondent appeared before a judge in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, Maryland, and pleaded guilty to Count 1 – CDS Possession with Intent to Distribute and Count 4 – Felony Theft Scheme: \$1,500 to Under \$25,000. The Respondent was sentenced to 10 years of incarceration for Count 1 and 3

years of incarceration for Count 4 to run concurrently, all suspended but time served, followed by three years of supervised probation.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes as a matter of law that the Respondent's actions, as described above, constitute: fraudulently using a pharmacy technician's registration, in violation of Health Occ. § 12-6B-9(3); pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, or having been found guilty of, a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, in violation of Health Occ. § 12-6B-9(22); and participating in any activity that is grounds for Board action under § 12-313 or § 12-409 of this title, *i.e* Health Occ. § 12-313(25) and COMAR 10.34.10.01B(3), in violation of Health Occ. § 12-6B-9(27).


ORDER

It is, on the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board, hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in Maryland, Registration Number: T04520, be and hereby is **REVOKED**; and it is further

ORDERED that this Final Order is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2021).

2-19-2025
Date



Kristopher Rusinko, PharmD.
Board President
Maryland State Board of Pharmacy

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-316(b) (2021 Repl. Vol.), you have a right to take a direct judicial appeal. A Petition for Judicial Review must be filed within thirty (30) days of service of this Order and shall be made as provided for judicial review of a final decision in the Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §§ 10-201 *et seq.* (2021 Repl. Vol.) and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules.