

IN THE MATTER OF

*

BEFORE THE

KATRICE MATTHEWS

*

STATE BOARD

Pharmacy Technician

*

OF

Registration Number: T01945

*

PHARMACY

Respondent

*

Case Number: 19-245

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-226 (c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby suspends the registration to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland issued to **KATRICE MATTHEWS** (the "Respondent"), **Registration Number T01945**, under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on information received by, and made known to the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, including the instances described below, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the summary suspension. 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 connection with this matter.

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was initially registered to practice on August 11, 2008. The Respondent's registration expires on July 31, 2020.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a pharmacy (the "Pharmacy") in a hospital located in Central Maryland.²

3. On January 25, 2019, the Board received a "Controlled Substances Diversion Investigation Summary Report" and a Drug Enforcement Administration "Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances" from the Pharmacy that indicated that the Respondent was responsible for diverting controlled dangerous substances from the Pharmacy during her employment with the Pharmacy.

4. The Respondent worked as the primary inventory technician for the Pharmacy and received controlled substances orders on a daily basis as part of her duties.

5. The Pharmacy's investigation determined that between her initial hire date of December 1, 2014, and her termination on September 19, 2018, the Respondent was responsible for the following losses of controlled dangerous substances, reported on the DEA form:

Hydrocodone /APAP 7.5-325 mg/15 ml Sol ³	1,387 ml
Oxycodone ⁴ , 5 mg	205 tablets

² The names of facilities and/or individuals are confidential but may be disclosed to the Respondent by contacting the Administrative Prosecutor.

³ Hydrocodone bitartrate and acetaminophen is available in liquid form for oral administration and is an opioid analgesic.

⁴ This medication is used to help relieve moderate to severe pain.

Alprazolam ⁵ , 0.5 mg	639 tablets
Alprazolam, 1 mg	8,202 tablets
Alprazolam, 2 mg	169,764 tablets
Buprenorphine ⁶ , 8 mg	3,090 tablets
Promethazine VC with Codeine, ⁷ 6.25-10mg/5 ml Liq.	1,340 ml
Promethazine/ Codeine, 6.25-10 mg/5 ml Liq.	44,584 ml
Suboxone, ⁸ 12-3 mg Film	674 films
Suboxone, 8-2 mg Film	4,894 films

6. The Report listed the value of the diverted CDS as \$96,873.00.

7. By stealing controlled dangerous drugs from her employer, the Respondent is a threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-226(c) (2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.).

⁵ Alprazolam is used to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

⁶ Buprenorphine, sold under the brand name Subutex, among others, is an opioid used to treat opioid addiction, acute pain, and chronic pain. It can be used under the tongue, by injection, as a skin patch, or as an implant. For opioid addiction, it is typically only started when withdrawal symptoms have begun and for the first two days of treatment under direct observation of a health care provider.

⁷ Promethazine VC with Codeine is a combination medicine used to treat runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, cough, and sinus congestion caused by allergies or the common cold. Promethazine VC with Codeine contains a narcotic cough medicine and may be habit-forming. VC stands for the addition of a decongestant; promethazine, which is an antihistamine, and codeine, an opioid-- all in one.

⁸ This medication contains 2 medicines: buprenorphine and naloxone. It is used to treat opioid dependence/addiction. Buprenorphine belongs to a class of drugs called mixed opioid agonist-antagonists.

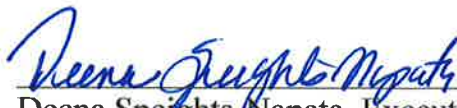
ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 14th day of June, 2019, by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board, by authority granted to the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-226(c) (2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.), the registration held by the Respondent, **KATRICE MATTHEWS**, to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland, **Registration No. T01945**, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that, upon the Board's receipt of a written request from the Respondent, a Show Cause Hearing shall be scheduled within a reasonable time of said request, at which the Respondent will be given an opportunity to be heard as to whether the Summary Suspension should be continued; and it is further

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

ORDERED that this document constitutes an Order of the Board and is a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Vol. and 2018 Supp.).



Deena Sperights-Napata, Executive Director
Board of Pharmacy

NOTICE OF HEARING

A Show Cause hearing to determine whether the Summary Suspension shall be continued will be held before the Board at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, 21215, following a written request by the Respondent for same.