IN THE MATTER OF * BEFORE THE MARYLAND

JESSICA L. PARSONS * STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN *

RESPONDENT * CASE NO: 23-169

REGISTRATION NO.: T26422 *

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FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION OF PHARMACY TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION

The Maryland State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") notified Jessica L. Parsons (the "Respondent"), Registration Number: T26422, of the Board's 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 Occ. ("Health. Occ.") §§12-101 et seq. (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2023 Supp.). The pertinent provision of the Act and the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") state:

Health. Occ. §12-6B-09.

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;
- (23) Violates any provision of this title;
- (25) Violates any regulation adopted by the Board[.]

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

Health. Occ. §12-313.

- (b) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 12–315 of this subtitle, the Board, on the affirmative vote of a majority of its members then serving, may deny a license to any applicant for a pharmacist's license, reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke a license of a pharmacist if the applicant or licensee:
 - (25) Violates any rule or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

COMAR 10.34.10.01 Patient Safety and Welfare.

- B. A pharmacist may not:
 - (1) Engage in conduct which departs from the standard of care ordinarily exercised by a pharmacist;
 - (3) Engage in unprofessional conduct[.]

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Respondent was originally issued a registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in Maryland on or about March 28, 2022. The Respondent's registration expired on July 31, 2023.
- 2. On or about April 10, 2023, the Board summarily suspended the Respondent's registration to practice as a pharmacy technician.
- 3. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed at a retail pharmacy chain (the "Pharmacy") located in Maryland.

- 4. On or about September 26, 2022, the Board received notification from Pharmacy staff that the Respondent diverted medication and other items from her place of employment. Pharmacy staff submitted DEA form 106 Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances indicating that 124 tablets of Oxycodone HCL (IR) 15 mg had been lost or stolen from the Pharmacy.
- 5. According to video surveillance at the Pharmacy, the Respondent was observed on several occasions entering the Pharmacy and taking merchandise from the store shelves without paying for the items. The videotape also showed the Respondent consuming some of the products that she had taken from the store shelves.
- 6. On or about July 15, 2023, the Respondent was interviewed by Pharmacy staff. During the interview, the Respondent admitted to taking various items from the Pharmacy store shelves including energy drinks, fake nails, pregnancy tests, shampoo, and cough syrup. The total cost of the items that the Respondent took from the pharmacy store was approximately three hundred dollars (\$300).
- 7. The Respondent also admitted to Pharmacy staff that on numerous occasions, she took approximately 500 tablets of various controlled dangerous substances, including Oxycodone from the bottles located in the pharmacy area and from filled patient prescriptions. The Respondent further admitted that she took an inhaler from the pharmacy area.²

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¹ For confidentiality and privacy purposes, the names of individuals and facilities involved in this case are not disclosed in this document. Upon written request, the Administrative Prosecutor will provide the information to the Respondent.

- 8. The Respondent told Pharmacy staff that she gave her friend most of the controlled dangerous substances that she took from the pharmacy so her friend could sell the medication. She also told Pharmacy staff that she kept some of the controlled dangerous substances for her personal use.
- 9. The Respondent also told Pharmacy staff that she had an addiction to opiates and was struggling financially.
- 10. The Respondent also provided the Pharmacy staff with a written statement. In her written statement, the Respondent admitted taking merchandise from the Pharmacy store and signed an agreement to pay the Pharmacy three hundred dollars (\$300).
 - 11. Following the interview, the Respondent was terminated by Pharmacy staff.
- 12. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above is in violation of Health Occ. §12-6B-09 (3), (23), (25), and (27); §12-313(25), and COMAR 10.34.10.01 B (1) and (3).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Board concludes that the Respondent is in violation of §12-6B-09 (3), (23), (25), and (27); §12-313(25), and COMAR 10.34.10.01 B (1) and (3).

<u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, a majority of a quorum of the Board hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's registration to practice as a pharmacy

² The name and dosage of the controlled substances that the Respondent took from patient filled prescriptions is unknown.

quorum of the Board hereby:

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

ORDERED that Respondent shall return to the Board all Maryland licenses 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 Order is reportable to the National Practitioners' Bank; and it is further

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

1/21/2024

Maryland State Board of Pharmacy

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL

In accordance with § 12-316 of the Act and Md. Code Ann., State Government §§ 10-201, et seq. (2021 Repl. Vol. and 2023 Supp.) you have a right to a direct judicial appeal of this decision. A petition for appeal of the Final Board Order shall be filed with the Board within thirty days from your receipt of this Final Order and shall be made in accordance with the aforementioned authority.