

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE**
JESSICA L. PARSONS * **MARYLAND STATE**
Pharmacy Technician * **BOARD OF PHARMACY**
RESPONDENT *
Registration No.: T26422 * **Case No.: 23-169**

* * * * *

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Maryland State Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the registration of **Jessica L. Parsons** (the “Respondent”), Registration Number: **T26422**, 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. & 2022 Supp.).

The Board takes such action pursuant to its authority under Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-226(c) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.), concluding that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

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

2. 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 expires on July 31, 2023.

3. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed at a retail pharmacy chain (the "Pharmacy")² 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.

¹ The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are only intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis for the Board's action. 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 this matter.

² 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.

6. On or about July 15, 2022, the Respondent was interviewed by Pharmacy staff.

7. 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).

8. 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.³

9. 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.

10. In addition, the Respondent told Pharmacy staff that she had an addiction to opiates and was struggling financially.

11. 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).

³ The name and dosage of the controlled substances that the Respondent took from filled patient prescriptions is unknown.

12. Following the interview, the Respondent was terminated by Pharmacy staff.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings, the Board concludes that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. § 10-226(c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol. & 2022 Supp.).

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Investigative Findings and Conclusions of Law, it is this 10th day of April 2023, by a majority of the quorum of the Board, hereby

ORDERED that the registration issued to the Respondent to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland under registration number T26422 is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent is prohibited from practicing as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent has the opportunity to appear before the Board for a post-deprivation show cause hearing for a determination of whether the Summary Suspension should be continued. A request for a post-deprivation show cause hearing must be made in writing to the Board and be made **WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS** of the date of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent fails to request a post-deprivation show cause hearing in writing in a timely manner, or if the Respondent requests a post-deprivation

show cause hearing but fails to appear before the Board when the hearing is scheduled, the Respondent's registration shall remain **SUSPENDED**; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall immediately return all registrations (wall and wallet sized) to the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension is a **PUBLIC** document, as defined in Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-333 (2021 Rep. Vol. & 2022 Supp.).

4-10-23

Date



Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director *for*
Jennifer L. Hardesty, Pharm.D.
Board President
Maryland State Board of Pharmacy