

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
TARIA SHIRD, PHARM TECH \* STATE BOARD  
Registration No.: T11164 \* OF  
Respondent \* PHARMACY  
\* Case No. PT-16-022

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

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

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland. The Respondent was first registered on July 17, 2012. The Respondent's registration expires on September 30, 2017.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a grocery chain pharmacy in Baltimore County, Maryland, hereinafter "Pharmacy A."

3. On or about February 24, 2016, the Board received documentation from Pharmacy A indicating that the Respondent was terminated from employment on February 22, 2016 for theft of cash and diversion of a controlled substance, as follows:

- A. On February 16, 2016, the Asset Protection Associate for Pharmacy A notified the Asset Protection Associate of a possible internal fraud case;
- B. On February 16, 2016, the Cash Office Lead-Person for Pharmacy A approached the Asset Protection Associate about an overage of \$13 on the pharmacy register from February 15, 2016. The Lead Office Cash Person asked the Asset Protection Associate to review video of several "no receipt" refunds to ensure that members received their correct amount of cash back on their refunds;
- C. Upon reviewing the video from February 15, 2016, the Asset Protection Associate observed that the Respondent completed several refunds without a receipt and that no member or merchandise was present for these refunds;
- D. The Asset Protection Associate further observed on video that the Respondent set cash in the far left compartment of the cash till and, at the end of her shift, while counting down her register, the Respondent reached into the left compartment of the cash till, picked up the cash from the refunds, folded it in her hand, and placed it into her pants pocket;
- E. The Asset Protection Associate contacted the Asset Protection Manager about her findings and a detailed investigation was opened into the situation;

- F. The Asset Protection Manager discovered that the Respondent committed the same type of refund fraud on February 2, 6, 8, 9, 15 and 18, 2016, with losses totaling \$1200;
- G. On February 22, 2016, the Asset Protection Manager interviewed the Respondent who admitted to the theft of the cash and also admitted to taking six bottles of Promethazine<sup>1</sup> cough syrup with codeine so that a friend could sell them illegally on the street;
- H. The Respondent executed a written statement admitting to both thefts.
4. As a result of the thefts, the Respondent was terminated from employment from Pharmacy A on February 22, 2016.
5. As a result of the thefts, the Respondent was charged in the Circuit Court of Maryland for Baltimore County with the following:
- Count 1: CDS-Distribute;
  - Count 2: CDS Poss-not Marijuana;
  - Count 3: Theft: \$1000to under \$10, 000;
  - Count 4: Theft: Less \$100.
6. Pharmacy A filed a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) "Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances" Report, as required. The Report listed the following substances taken:
- Promethazine-Codeine, 10 mg-6.25mg/5 ml/20 ml;

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<sup>1</sup>Codeine is a narcotic, a pain reliever, and a cough suppressant. Promethazine is an antihistamine that blocks the effects of the naturally occurring chemical histamine in the body. The combination of codeine and promethazine is used to treat cold or allergy symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, and cough.

Promethazine-Codeine, 5 mg-10 mg-6.25 mg/5 ml.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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

**ORDER**

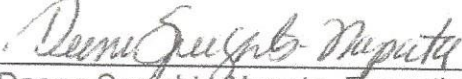
Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 12 day of May, 2016, by a majority vote of a quorum of the State Board of Pharmacy, by authority granted to the Board by Md. St. Gov't. Code Ann. §10-226(c) (2) (2014 Repl. Vol. II), the registration held by the Respondent to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland, Registration No.T11164 is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it 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, regarding the Respondent's fitness to practice as a Pharm Tech and the danger to the public; and be it 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 be it further

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



  
Deena Speights-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.