

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES G. WALKER

License No. 09983

AND

WALKER PHARMACY

Permit Number: P07936

BEFORE THE

MARYLAND STATE

BOARD OF PHARMACY

Case Number: 20-265(A)

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

Procedural Background

On January 13, 2020, James G. Walker, License Number 09983 (the “Respondent”), sole owner of Walker Pharmacy, Permit Number P07936, (the “Pharmacy”), was indicted by a grand jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for two (2) counts of Second-Degree Murder and two (2) counts of Involuntary Manslaughter. The Respondent had a jury trial after which he was found guilty of two (2) counts of second-degree murder. The Respondent was sentenced on May 2, 2025, to 384 months incarceration followed by five (5) years of supervised release. On November 19, 2025, the Maryland Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) issued a Notice of Intent to Revoke License to Practice Pharmacy to the Respondent and a Notice of Intent to Revoke Pharmacy Permit to the Pharmacy. The Board held a consolidated evidentiary hearing on April 15, 2026, in accordance with the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov’t § 10-201 *et seq.*, and the Board’s regulations, COMAR 10.34.01. The Respondent appeared remotely from the Correctional Treatment Facility in Washington, D.C., via video conference. Following the

hearing, the same quorum of the Board convened to deliberate and voted unanimously to revoke the Respondent's license and dismiss the charges against the Pharmacy for the reasons set forth in this Final Decision and Order.

SUMMARY OF THE EVIDENCE

A. Documents

The following documents were admitted into evidence.

- State's Exhibit A - Notice of Hearing dated January 15, 2026
- State's Exhibit B - Notice of Intent to Revoke – Pharmacist's License
Letter of Procedure
Notice of Intent to Revoke, Nov. 19, 2025
Proposed Order of Revocation of License
Consent Order, July 23, 2024
- State's Exhibit C - Notice of Intent to Revoke – Pharmacy Permit
Letter of Procedure
Notice of Intent to Revoke, Nov. 19, 2025
Proposed Order of Revocation of Pharmacy Permit
Consent Order, July 23, 2024
Quarterly Mentorship Report, June 10, 2025
- State's Exhibit D - True Test Copy Federal Criminal Court Record
Criminal No. GJO

B. Witnesses

State: Kimberly Goodman, Compliance Investigator, Maryland Board of Pharmacy

Kunjai Patel, Pharmacy Mentor

Respondent: James Walker

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based upon the documentary and testimonial evidence admitted at the evidentiary hearing, the Board finds the following:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was licensed to practice pharmacy in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally licensed to practice in Maryland on or about April 20, 1983, under license number 09983. The Respondent's license is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2027.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent owned and operated Walker Pharmacy located in Baltimore City, Maryland. Walker Pharmacy was originally issued a pharmacy permit to operate in Maryland on or about September 5, 2018. The permit expired on May 31, 2026, and is non-renewed.

3. Walker Pharmacy is no longer open and operating. The Drug Enforcement Agency ("DEA") took custody of the prescription drugs on the Pharmacy's premises and disposed of them. [T. 43]

4. On or about January 11, 2020, the Respondent was indicted by a grand jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on two (2) counts of Second Degree Murder and two (2) counts of Involuntary Manslaughter (Criminal Negligence). [State's Ex. D]

5. The Respondent was found guilty by a jury trial of two (2) counts of Second Degree Murder. The Respondent was sentenced on May 2, 2025, to 384 months incarceration and five (5) years of supervised release. [State's Ex. D]

6. The Respondent asserts that his criminal case is pending appeal. [T. 49]

OPINION

Pharmacists play an integral role in the provision of healthcare services to Maryland patients. Pharmacists are trusted healthcare providers of safe and effective medication therapy, including the use of potentially harmful medications. Pharmacists also act as gatekeepers for access to controlled dangerous substances. It goes without saying that a pharmacist shall personify good moral character, high ethics, and overall trustworthiness.

The Respondent has been found guilty of two (2) counts of Second Degree Murder, which constitute felonies and crimes of violence. And while the Respondent argues that his convictions in his criminal case were not related to his practice as a pharmacist, no such nexus is required. The Board has clear statutory authority to discipline a pharmacist based on a felony conviction, whether or not any appeal is pending. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-313(b)(22). Further, a felony conviction for a crime of violence does not need to involve pharmacy practice – a conviction for a crime of violence alone is sufficient basis to revoke a pharmacist’s license.

The Board’s disciplinary authority does more than just penalize poor pharmacy practices to protect the public; it is also intended to serve as a “catharsis for the profession and a prophylactic for the public.” *See Pickert v. Maryland Board of Physicians*, 180 Md. App. 490, 505 (2008). As such, the Board finds that a pharmacist who has been convicted of two (2) counts of Second-Degree Murder diminishes the standing of the pharmacy profession and undermines the public trust in pharmacists, and may discipline the pharmacist appropriately.

With respect to the Pharmacy permit, the Board finds that since the Pharmacy is now closed, the DEA took custody of the drug inventory, the pharmacist's license of the Pharmacy owner, Mr. Walker, is being revoked herein, and the pharmacy permit is expired, any disciplinary action would have no practical effect. Therefore, the Board dismisses the charges against the Pharmacy permit as moot.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing summary of evidence, findings of fact, and opinion, the Board concludes that the Respondent, James G. Walker, is subject to discipline pursuant to the Act, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-313(b)(22).

ORDER

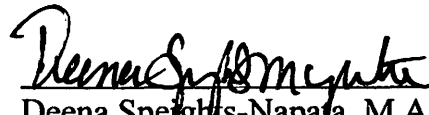
Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, Opinion, and Conclusions of Law, by a unanimous decision of a quorum of the Board, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the Respondent's pharmacist license with the Board to practice pharmacy in Maryland, License No. 09983, shall be and is **REVOKED**; and be it further,

ORDERED that the charges against the Pharmacy's permit, Permit No. P07936, are dismissed; and be it further

ORDERED that this is a final order of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy and as such is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Provisions Art. § 4-333(b).

6-8-26
Date


Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.
Executive Director for the
Board

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 12-316, the Respondent has the right to seek judicial review of this Order. Any petition for judicial review shall be filed within thirty days from the date of mailing of this Order. The cover letter accompanying this Order indicates the date the decision is mailed. Any petition for judicial review shall be made as provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act, Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-201 *et seq.*, and Title 7, Chapter 200 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

If the Respondent files a petition for judicial review, the Board is a party and should be served with the court's process at the following address:

Maryland State Board of Pharmacy
Deena Speights-Napata, MA, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, 5th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Notice of any petition should also be sent to the Board's counsel at the following address:

Linda M. Bethman
Assistant Attorney General
Maryland Department of Health
300 West Preston Street, Suite 302
Baltimore, Maryland 21201