

IN THE MATTER OF * **BEFORE THE**
CRYSTAL ABRIMS, PHARM TECH * **STATE BOARD**
Respondent * **OF**
Registration Number: T14353 * **PHARMACY**
* **Case Number: PT-17-029**

* * * * *

**FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION
OF PHARMACY TECHNICIAN'S REGISTRATION**

On February 21, 2018, the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board"), notified **CRYSTAL ABRIMS**, Pharmacy Technician (Pharm Tech), the Respondent, of its Intent to Revoke her pharmacy technician registration.

The Notice also informed the Respondent that, unless she requested a hearing in writing within 30 days of receipt of said Notice, the Board would sign the Final Order, which was enclosed. More than 30 days have elapsed, and the Respondent failed to timely request a hearing. Therefore, this revocation is final.

The Board bases its action on the Respondent's violation of the following provisions of the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations ("Health Occ.") §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol and 2017 Suppl.).

The relevant provisions are as follows:

Health Occ. § 12-6B-09. Grounds for reprimand or denial, probation, suspension, or revocation of registration.

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;

- (22) Pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, or has been found guilty of, a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, regardless of whether:
 - (i) An adjudication of guilt or sentencing or imposition of sentence is withheld; or
 - (ii) Any appeal or other proceeding is pending regarding the matter;
- (27) Participates in any activity that is grounds for Board action under § 12-313 or § 12-409 of this title [;].

With respect to Health Occ. § 12-6B-09 (27), the underlying grounds for Board action under § 12-313 include:

- (25) Violates any rule for regulation adopted by the Board [;].

The pertinent provision of the Board's regulations under Code Md. Regs. ("COMAR") tit. 10 § .34.10 provides:

.01 Patient Safety and Welfare.

B. A pharmacist may not:

- (3) Engage in unprofessional conduct.

**FACTS THAT WARRANT
THE REVOCATION OF THE RESPONDENT'S REGISTRATION**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was first registered on March 26, 2014. The Respondent's registration expired on October 31, 2017.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a national chain pharmacy (the "Pharmacy") in Millersville, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.¹

¹ For confidentially purposes, the names of pharmacies and all individuals referenced herein will not be

3. On or about January 11, 2017, the Pharmacy reported to the Board an initial notification of Controlled Substance Theft or Significant Loss. The Notice identified Alprazolam,² 1 and 2 mg, tablets as missing. The Pharmacy stated that it would be conducting a further investigation.

4. By a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) form, "Report of Theft of Loss of Controlled Substances", dated February 13, 2017, the Pharmacy disclosed the following:

- A. The Pharmacy indicated that the cause of the theft/loss was due to "employee pilferage;"
- B. The Pharmacy identified the Respondent and stated that she had admitted stealing the Alprazolam and was terminated from employment;
- C. The Pharmacy indicated that it would institute diligent inventory management, bag and smock checks, and not allow personal items in the Pharmacy;
- D. The amount of the loss was \$5,845;
- E. The specific drug losses were as follows:
 - (i) Alprazolam, 1mg 3,071 tablets;
 - (ii) Alprazolam, 2 mg 2,117 tablets.

5. The Board received an Investigative Report from the Pharmacy's Regional Loss Prevention Manager (RLPM) who reported that an anonymous call had been placed to the Pharmacy's Ethics Line accusing the Respondent of using marijuana outside of work and trading drugs for the marijuana.

identified by name in this document.

6. The RLPM, as part of his investigation, discovered that the Respondent had a December 14, 2016, arrest under another last name for “CDS—not marijuana.” When he contacted the arresting officer, he discovered that the CDS was Xanax, the trade name for Alprazolam. On March 17, 2017, in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County (Glen Burnie), the Respondent pled guilty to that charge. She was sentenced to a four-year imprisonment term, all suspended, and placed on two years supervised Probation.

7. Thereafter, the RLPM conducted a count of Alprazolam and discovered that there were over 4,000 missing 1mg tablets and over 2,000 missing 2 mg tablets.

8. Subsequently, the RLPM interviewed the Respondent with witnesses, and, without being told what drugs were missing, the Respondent admitted stealing small amounts of 1 and 2 mgs. of Alprazolam. The Respondent stated that she took them “due to stress.” The Respondent also provided a written statement to that effect.

9. As a result, the Respondent was terminated from employment immediately.

10. The Anne Arundel County Police were called, and the Respondent was charged in the District Court of Maryland for Anne Arundel County (Glen Burnie) with Theft less than \$100. On March 17, 2017, the Respondent pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment, all suspended, and two years supervised Probation.

11. Based upon the above, on July 17, 2017, the Board issued an Order for Summary Suspension in which it summarily suspended the Respondent’s registration. The Respondent failed to request a hearing and/or contest the Board’s findings.

² Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine that affects chemicals in the brain that may be unbalanced in people with anxiety. Alprazolam is used to treat anxiety disorders, panic disorders, and anxiety caused by depression.

12. The Respondent's conduct as set forth above constitutes a violation of Health Occ. §§12-6B-09 (3), (22) and (27), Health Occ. § 12-313(25), and COMAR 10.34.10.01 B (3).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated §12-6B-09(3), (22) and (27), Health Occ. § 12-313(25), and COMAR 10.34.10.01 B (3).


ORDER

As set forth above, the Board hereby Orders, that the registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician in Maryland held by **CRYSTAL ABRIMS**, the Respondent, Registration No. **T14353**, be and is **REVOKED**, and that this Order is public, pursuant to Md. Code Ann. General Provisions §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2017 Supp.).

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL

In accordance with §12-316 of the Act and Md. Code Ann., State Government §§10-201, *et seq.* (2014 Replacement Vol. and 2017 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 within thirty days from your receipt of this Final Order and shall be made in accordance with the aforesaid authority.

4/18/2018
Date


Mitra Gavvani, Pharm.D., President
State Board of Pharmacy