

IN THE MATTER OF

\*

BEFORE THE

TARA ALBAN,

\*

MARYLAND BOARD

Pharmacy Technician

\*

OF PHARMACY

Respondent

\*

Case No.: 20-127

Registration Number.: T21018

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

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

The Maryland State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") notified Tara Alban, Pharmacy Technician, Registration Number T21018, (the "Respondent"), of the Board's intent to revoke her registration to practice as a pharmacy technician under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2019 Supp.).

The Notice also informed the Respondent that, unless she requested a hearing in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of said Notice, the Board would sign the Final Order, which was enclosed. More than thirty (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 Act:

**§ 12-6B-09. Ground 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 . . . pharmacy technician registrant:

....

(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 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 or regulation adopted by the Board[.]

The pertinent provisions of the regulations adopted by the Board are as follows:

**COMAR 10.34.10.01. Patient Safety and Welfare.**

....

B. A pharmacist may not:

....

(3) Engage in unprofessional conduct

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Board finds the following facts:

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland. The Respondent was originally registered as a pharmacy technician in Maryland on or about May 17, 2018. The Respondent's license expired on October 31, 2019.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a pharmacy technician at a national chain pharmacy (the “Pharmacy”).<sup>1</sup>

3. On or about August 22, 2019, the Board received notification from the Office of Controlled Substances Administration (“OCSA”) that the Pharmacy had identified a loss of controlled substances and terminated the Respondent as a result.

4. On or about August 22, 2019, the Board also received a DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) – 106 – Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances (the “Report”) from OCSA related to the theft.

5. The Report listed the controlled dangerous substances (“CDS”) that were lost/stolen on or about May 29, 2019, as:

<b>Trade Name</b>	<b>NDC Number</b>	<b>Dosage Str.</b>	<b>Quality Lost/Stolen</b>
Alprazolam 0.25 mg Tablet	00228202796	0.25 mg	165
Alprazolam 0.25 mg Tablet	67253090050	0.25 mg	27
Alprazolam 0.5 mg Tablet	00228202996	0.5 mg	313
Alprazolam 1 mg Tablet	00228203150	1 mg	408
Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen 5-325 mg Tablet	00406012305	5 mg-325 mg	296
Oxycodone HCL 10 mg Tablet	10702005601	10 mg	64
Oxycodone HCL 30 mg Tablet	00228287911	30 mg	10
Oxycodone-Acetaminophen 7.5-325 mg Tablet	00406052201	7.5 mg-325 mg	50

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Phentermine 30 mg Capsule	13107010601	30 mg	45
Phentermine 37.5 mg Tablet	13107006101	37.5 mg	311
Tramadol HCL 50 mg Tablet	68382031910	50 mg	855

6. The Report listed the value of the lost CDS as \$2,516.

Pharmacy Internal Investigation

7. In April 2019, the Pharmacy’s Asset Protection Manager began an investigation regarding “inventory shortages [that] had recently been identified for various controlled medications in the [P]harmacy.”

8. As part of their investigation, they set up covert cameras in the Pharmacy. On June 18, 2019, the Asset Protection Manager reviewed the covert camera footage, which revealed the Respondent “had poured some of Tramadol 50 MG tablets into her hand and then concealed them in her shirt pocket, while at the Rx fill station.”

9. On or about June 19, 2019, the Asset Protection Manager and the District Manager at the Pharmacy interviewed the Respondent, at which time, the Respondent admitted that she had stolen various controlled medications from the pharmacy department on multiple occasions, over a five-month period. The Respondent admitted she had stolen Alprazolam 0.5 mg, Hydrocodone 7.5/500 mg, and Tramadol 50 mg during the prescription fill process.

10. On or about June 19, 2019, the Respondent also provided the Pharmacy a written statement.

11. As part of her written statement, the Respondent provided, in part:

I did start taking medication to help with the pain and my anxiety to help get me through and feel like I was functionally normally. This started this

past January after slowing down on the medication my doctor was prescribing, thinking “I didn’t need it.” It was never a daily thing, more of a weekly thing, and maybe around 10 tablets each time. . . . My doctor and pharmacist told me several times to go to grief therapy, but again, I “didn’t need it” is what I always told them.

12. On June 19, 2019, the Pharmacy terminated the Respondent’s employment for theft.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, by a majority of the quorum of the Board hereby

**ORDERED** that the Respondent, **TARA ALBAN’S**, registration to practice as a pharmacy technician in the State of Maryland is hereby **REVOKED**; and it is further

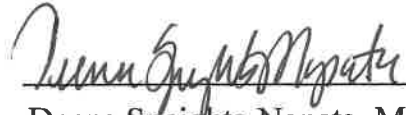
**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall return to the Board all Maryland pharmacy technician registrations within ten (10) days of the date of this Order; and it is further

**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 document constitutes a formal disciplinary action of the Board and this Order is final and a public document pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 4-101 – 4-601 (2014).

5-20-2020

Date



Deena Speights-Napata, M.A.  
Executive Director  
Maryland Board of Pharmacy