

IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE  
ALBERTA GERALD, Pharm Tech. \* STATE BOARD  
License No.T05674 \* OF  
Respondent \* PHARMACY  
\* Case No. PT-12-023

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §10-226 (c) (2)(2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby suspends the registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician (Pharm Tech) in Maryland issued to Alberta Gerald (the "Respondent"), under the Maryland Pharmacy Practice Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 12-101, et seq., (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

**BACKGROUND**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland. The Respondent was first registered on June 9, 2009. The Respondent's registration expires on December 31, 2012.
2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a National chain pharmacy located in Baltimore, Maryland.
3. Starting in mid-July 2011, the pharmacy's loss prevention program identified a discrepancy with the balance on hand of Suboxone<sup>1</sup> 8mg/2/mg tablets. Upon initial investigation, it was discovered that too much product was continually

ordered, surpassing the demand at the store.

4. During the first week in August, the store installed two covert cameras aimed at the shelf where the Suboxone was located. On August 23, 2011, the Respondent was identified as responsible for the theft through the camera footage. The Respondent was immediately removed from the pharmacy and brought to the manager's office for questioning where she admitted to taking at least 100 bottles of Suboxone. After her admittance, the Baltimore City police were called to the scene to arrest the employee.

4. The pharmacy submitted a DEA theft and loss report, as required. The report indicated that the value of the drugs was \$34,602.14.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

As set forth above, an employee who steals narcotics from her employer is a threat to the public safety, health or welfare.

#### **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) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.).

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<sup>1</sup>Suboxone is used for treating opioid dependence. It should be used as part of a complete narcotic dependence treatment plan.

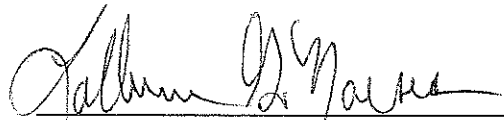
**ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012, by a majority vote of a quorum of the State Board of Pharmacy, by authority granted by the Board by Md. St. Govt. Code Ann. §10-226(c) (2) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Rep. Vol.), the license held by the Respondent to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland, Registration No. T05647, 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 license 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. State Gov't Code Ann. § 10-617(h) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2011 Supp.).



LaVerne G. Naesea, 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.