

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**TYRONE WATKINS, PHARM TECH**  
**Registration No.: T12012**  
**Respondent**

**\* BEFORE THE**  
**\* STATE BOARD**  
**\* OF**  
**\* PHARMACY**  
**\* Case No.: 19-195**

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't ("State Gov't") §10-226 (c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDS** the registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician ("Pharm Tech") in Maryland issued to **TYRONE WATKINS**, (the "Respondent"), **Registration Number T12012**, concluding that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>**

1. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland. The Respondent was first registered on January 30, 2013. The Respondent's registration expires August 31, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup>The allegations set forth in this Order are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the Board's action. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent in connection with this action.

2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a pharmacy which focused on long-term care in Annapolis Junction<sup>2</sup>, Maryland (the "Pharmacy").<sup>3</sup>

3. On or about December 11, 2018, the Board received a report of "Initial Notification of Controlled Substance Theft of Potentially Significant Loss" and a Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") "Report of Theft or Loss of Controlled Substances" form from the Pharmacy.

4. Based on the reports, the Board began an investigation which is set forth *infra*.

5. The Pharmacy's District Asset Protection Leader (the "Asset Leader") reported that, on September 14, 2018, he was notified that there was a potential diversion with Promethazine<sup>4</sup> due to three different orders for 12 bottles identified from the supplier on or about September 12, 2018.

6. Further review of the orders was traced back to the Respondent. The Asset Leader found that there were no instances for the demand of Promethazine in any of the nursing facilities that the Respondent serviced.

7. Accordingly, on September 28, 2018, an interview was conducted by the Asset Leader, with another employee as a witness, where the Respondent admitted stealing

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<sup>2</sup> Annapolis Junction is unique in that it is located in both Anne Arundel and Howard Counties.

<sup>3</sup> Facility and individual names are confidential but may be disclosed to the Respondent by contacting the Administrative Prosecutor.

<sup>4</sup> Promethazine is used to prevent and treat nausea and vomiting related to certain conditions. It is also used to treat allergy symptoms such as rash, itching, and runny nose. It may be used to help one feel sleepy/relaxed before and after surgery or to help certain narcotic pain relievers work better. It may also be used for a short time to treat a runny nose due to the common cold. Promethazine is an antihistamine and works by blocking a certain natural substance that one's body makes during an allergic reaction.

the 12 bottles of Promethazine, explaining that he would order them directly from the supplier on his company laptop, meet the supplier, hide the trays containing the bottles, and later retrieve them and remove the invoice. The Respondent also admitted stealing Amoxicillin<sup>5</sup> to help with an infection, but stated that he did not know the whereabouts of the two bottles of Phentermine<sup>6</sup> ordered that were in the same tote as the Promethazine.

8. The Respondent claimed that he stole the drugs to help with his debt. He agreed to pay the Pharmacy the total loss of \$418.50 and signed a Promissory note to repay the loss.

9. As a result of the above, the Respondent was subsequently terminated from employment from the Pharmacy.

10. The Pharmacy later conducted an inventory and submitted the aforesaid DEA report which named the Respondent as responsible for the theft. The report listed the following losses:

Promethazine VC-Codeine syrup <sup>7</sup>	5mg-10mg/5ml	13,774 ml.
Phentermine	37.5 mg	231 tabs
Promethazine-Codeine Syrup	10mg-6.25 mg/5ml	10,639 ml.

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<sup>5</sup> Amoxicillin is a penicillin antibiotic that fights bacteria. Amoxicillin is used to treat many different types of infection caused by bacteria, such as tonsillitis, bronchitis, pneumonia, gonorrhea, and infections of the ear, nose, throat, skin, or urinary tract.

<sup>6</sup> Phentermine, a Schedule IV controlled dangerous substance, is an appetite suppressant used, together with diet and exercise, to treat obesity.

<sup>7</sup> Phenergan VC (promethazine HCl and phenylephrine HCl) Syrup is a combination of an antihistamine and a decongestant used to treat symptoms such as itching, runny nose, sneezing, and congestion due to allergies or the common cold. Codeine is an opioid pain medication, sometimes called a narcotic. Codeine is used to treat mild to moderately severe pain.

11. The Howard County Police were called and the Respondent was criminally charged with seven Counts, ranging from CDS, obtain by fraud, to theft scheme \$100-less than \$1500. On January 24, 2019, in the District Court for Howard County, all seven Counts were placed on the stet docket<sup>8</sup>; he was ordered to pay \$1,700 restitution to the Pharmacy; and, complete 40 hours of community service.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't §10-226(c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.).

### ORDER

Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 11 day of April, 2019, by a majority of the Board, based on authority granted to the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't. §10-226(c)(2)(2014 Repl. Vol. and 2018 Supp.):

**ORDERED** that the registration held by **TYRONE WATKINS**, the Respondent, to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland, Registration Number **T12012**, is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and it is 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; and it is further

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<sup>8</sup> A stet in Maryland means that case is inactive for a period of time in order for the defendant to complete some agreed upon conditions (community service, counseling, anger management classes, payment of restitution).

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall immediately turn over to the Board his wall certificate and wallet-sized registration to practice as a Pharm Tech issued by the Board; and it is further

**ORDERED** that this document constitutes an 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. and 2018 Supp.).



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Edward B. Fields III, Deputy Director  
for  
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.