

IN THE MATTER OF

HREMT PHARMACY  
PERMIT NO. P02010

Respondent - Pharmacy

and

EMMANUEL THAD EREME, P.D.  
LICENSE NO. 11100

Respondent - Pharmacist

\* BEFORE THE  
\* MARYLAND  
\* STATE BOARD  
\* OF  
\* PHARMACY

\* \* \* \* \*

**ORDER CONTINUING SUMMARY SUSPENSIONS**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't § 10-226(c)(1999), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby continues the summary suspension of the license to practice pharmacy issued to Emmanuel Thad Ereme, P.D. and stays the summary suspension of the pharmacy permit issued to Hremt Pharmacy ("Hremt") contingent upon conditions set forth more fully herein. This Order follows a show cause hearing held on March 19, 2003, before a quorum of the Board.

**Background**

1. At all times relevant hereto, Mr. Ereme was licensed to practice pharmacy in Maryland. Mr. Ereme was first licensed by the Board on July 30, 1987. Mr. Ereme is the sole owner and permit holder for Hremt Pharmacy located at 5644 Silver Hill Road in District Heights, Maryland.
2. On March 6, 2003, the U.S. District Court issued a grand jury indictment against Mr. Ereme based on a finding of probable cause that Mr. Ereme engaged in a conspiracy to distribute drugs and drug distribution. All of the

alleged illegal drug distribution took place at Hremt Pharmacy and involved the illegal distribution of Schedule II narcotics.

3. On March 10, 2003, the Board issued summary suspension orders against Mr. Ereme's pharmacist's license as well as his permit to operate Hremt Pharmacy. The summary suspension order against Hremt Pharmacy was stayed for a period of 14 days to allow Mr. Ereme to wind down his business and transfer his drug inventory.
4. The Board held a show cause hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, during which Mr. Ereme had an opportunity to present argument for lifting or modifying the summary suspensions against his license or pharmacy permit.

#### **FINDINGS**

This Order is based on the following investigative information, which the Board finds credible and has reason to believe is true:

1. On March 6, 2003, the federal grand jury indicted Mr. Ereme based on allegations of narcotics conspiracy and distribution of controlled dangerous substances (Criminal No. PJM-02-0478). The indictment contains details regarding an alleged agreement between Mr. Ereme and a dentist, Beverly Wheatley, also indicted, to dispense Schedule II narcotics based on false or stolen prescriptions, *to wit*:
  - a. From in or about 1999 and continuously thereafter up to and including in or about April 2002, in the State and District of Maryland, and elsewhere, [Mr. Ereme]....did knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully combine, conspire and agree together to distribute and possess with

intent to distribute the following Schedule II controlled substances:  
Oxycodone (commonly referred to as Percocet or Roxicet),  
Hydromorphone (commonly referred to as Dilaudid) and Dolophine  
(commonly referred to as Methadone).

- b. It was part of the conspiracy that Mr. Ereme did dispense or cause others to dispense controlled substances pursuant to prescriptions that he knew were not authorized by a medical practitioner, prescriptions that were stolen from medical practitioners or otherwise fraudulent, and/or prescriptions that were not written by a medical practitioner for a legitimate medical purpose.
  - c. It was further part of the conspiracy that Beverly Wheatley provided unlawful prescriptions to Mr. Ereme and other employees of the Hremt Pharmacy for the purpose of unlawfully obtaining controlled substances for herself and for others.
  - d. It was further part of the conspiracy that Mr. Ereme failed to keep, or caused other employees of Hremt Pharmacy to fail to keep, proper records relating to dispensing controlled substances in order to hide, conceal and facilitate the illegal diversion of controlled substances.
2. The federal indictment also specifies four dates (March 21, 24, 28 and 29, 2000) on which Mr. Ereme knowingly, intentionally and unlawfully distributed Oxycodone, a Schedule II narcotic.
  3. There are at least three (3) other pharmacies located in the immediate vicinity of Hremt Pharmacy (CVS Pharmacy #2005, Safeway Pharmacy #4837,

Eckerd Drugs #3214). Thus, local residents have several alternative pharmacies that can service their pharmaceutical needs.

4. Other scheduled controlled dangerous substances have street value and abuse potential in addition to Schedule II narcotics.
5. Approximately two-thirds (2/3) of Hremt's pharmacy business is attributable to servicing contracts with the Department of Juvenile Justice as well as with other county health departments. Hremt also receives substantial income from the sale of durable medical equipment, health and beauty aids, and groceries.
6. Hremt's contracts with State and county agencies do not require the dispensing of Schedule II narcotics, except for Schedule II stimulants.

#### **CONCLUSION OF LAW**

Based upon the foregoing, the Board concludes that the public health, safety and welfare imperatively require emergency action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Article § 10-226(c)(2)(1999).

#### **ORDER**

Based on the foregoing, on this 24th day of March, 2003, by a unanimous vote of a quorum of the Board, by authority granted to the Board by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art. § 10-226(c)(2), it is hereby,

**ORDERED** that the license held by Emmanuel Thad Ereme to practice pharmacy in Maryland, License No. 11100, shall continue to be SUMMARILY SUSPENDED; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that the permit for Hremt Pharmacy, Permit No. P02010, held by Emmanuel Thad Ereme, shall continue to be SUMMARILY SUSPENDED; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that the summary suspension of Hremt Pharmacy be immediately STAYED, contingent upon the following conditions:

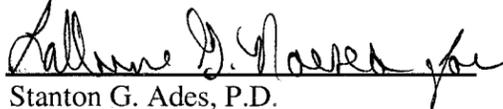
1. Hremt Pharmacy shall not dispense any prescription medications to walk-in customers. All prescriptions that have been filled as of March 11, 2003, shall be dispensed by March 25, 2003.
2. Hremt Pharmacy shall not possess any Schedule II drugs in its inventory except for the Schedule II stimulants that are required to fulfill Hremt's contractual obligations with State and county agencies.
3. Mr. Ereme shall not be permitted in the pharmacy area of Hremt Pharmacy under any circumstances.
4. The Board of Pharmacy shall maintain custody and control of Hremt's Form 222's. Any orders for Schedule II stimulants shall be communicated to the Board. The Board shall then complete the Form 222 and forward the form to Hremt to be signed and submitted for ordering.
5. The Board may inspect Hremt Pharmacy and/or audit Hremt's pharmacy records at any time.

**ORDERED** that this Order shall remain in effect until such time that the Board issues a Final Decision following an evidentiary hearing on the summary suspensions or any charges issued, whichever occurs first; and be it further,

**ORDERED** that an evidentiary hearing shall be scheduled upon request by Mr. Ereme or Hremt Pharmacy regarding the necessity for continuation of this Order, which hearing may be consolidated with a hearing on the Board's charges that the Respondent violated the Act; and, be it further

**ORDERED** that this document constitutes a final order of the State Board of Pharmacy and is therefore a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., State Gov't Art., §§10-617(h)(1999).

3/24/03  
Date

  
Stanton G. Ades, P.D.  
President, Board of Pharmacy

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

The Respondents, Emmanuel Thad Ereme and Hremt Pharmacy, are entitled to a full evidentiary hearing held before the Board of Pharmacy at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, on the merits of the Board's Order Continuing Summary Suspension. The Respondents shall submit such request to the Board in writing.