

<b>IN THE MATTER OF</b>	*	<b>BEFORE THE</b>
<b>CRYSTAL ABRIMS, PHARM TECH</b>	*	<b>STATE BOARD</b>
<b>Respondent</b>	*	<b>OF</b>
<b>Registration Number: T14353</b>	*	<b>PHARMACY</b>
	*	<b>Case Number: PT-017-029</b>
* * * * *		

**ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Government II ("SG II") §10-226 (c)(2) (2014 Repl. Vol.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby suspends the registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician ("Pharm Tech") in Maryland issued to **CRYSTAL ABRIMS** (the "Respondent"), under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations II (Health Occ. II) §§ 12-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

Based on information received by, and made known to the Board, and the investigatory information obtained by, received by and made known to and available to the Board, including the instances described below, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The statements regarding the Respondent's conduct are intended to provide the Respondent with notice of the basis of the summary suspension. 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 matter.

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 expires 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.<sup>2</sup>

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,<sup>3</sup> 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;

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<sup>2</sup> For confidentially purposes, the names of pharmacies and all individuals referenced herein will not be identified by name in this document, but may be revealed to the Respondent by contacting the Administrative Prosecutor.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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:

Alprazolam, 1mg	3,071 tablets;
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Alprazolam, 2 mg	2,117 tablets.
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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.

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 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.

### **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., SG II §10-226(c)(2)(2014 Repl. Vol.).

### **ORDER**

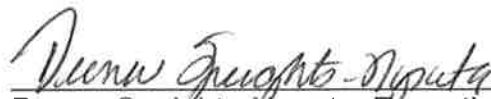
Based on the foregoing, it is therefore this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017, by a majority vote of a quorum of the State Board of Pharmacy, by authority granted to the Board by Md. Code Ann., SG II §10-226(c)(2)(2014 Repl. Vol.), the registration held by the Respondent to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland, Registration No. T14353, 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

**ORDERED** that the Respondent shall immediately turn over to the Board her 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 a public document for purposes of public disclosure, as required by Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014 Vol.).

  
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Deena Speights-Mapata, 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.