IN THE MATTER OF \* BEFORE THE

KAITLYN CIARAVELLA, Pharm Tech \* STATE BOARD

Registration No.: T08163 \* OF

Respondent \* PHARMACY

\* Case No: PT-13-007/13-207

### **ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Pursuant to Md. State Govt. Code Ann. §10-226 (c) (2) (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2012 Supp.), the State Board of Pharmacy (the "Board") hereby suspends the registration to practice as a Pharmacy Technician (Pharm Tech) in Maryland issued to Kaitlyn Ciaravella, (the "Respondent"), under the Maryland Pharmacy Act (the "Act"), Md. Health Occ. Code Ann. § 12-101, et seq., (2009 Repl. Vol. and 2012 Supp.). This Order is based on the following investigative findings, which the Board has reason to believe are true:

# **BACKGROUND**

- At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was registered to practice as a Pharm Tech in Maryland. The Respondent was first registered on October 8, 2010.
  The Respondent's license expires on May 31, 2014.
- 2. At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent was employed as a Pharm Tech at a pharmacy within a National supermarket chain located in Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
- 3. On August 24, 2012, the Board was notified by the pharmacy that it had filed a DEA form of loss/theft of drugs, due to employee pilferage by the Respondent,

and that the Division of Drug Control (DDC), and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the Anne Arundel County Police had been notified.

4. The pharmacy reported the following losses:

Diazepam	10 mg.	8 tablets
Diazepam	5 mg.	516 tablets
Hydrocodone/APAP	7.5/500	62 tablets
Alprazolam	.25 mg	507 tablets
Alprazolam	5 mg	385 tablets
Alprazolam	1 mg	149 tablets

- 5. The pharmacy investigation resulted from several customers reporting that their prescriptions for oxycodone had pills missing from their prescriptions and that loose pills were found inside the prescription bags. The investigation revealed that, on August 2, 2012, three pills were missing from a customer's prescription, and, on August 8, 2012, 17 pills were missing. The fill times and the signature logs were matched to the store's video. Video review disclosed the Respondent opening these two targeted prescriptions, removing the pills, while placing them in her smock pockets, and, finally placing them in her purse.
- 6. Further video review showed numerous thefts of the Respondent taking pills from various customers' prescriptions unrelated to the ones reported missing.
- 7. On August 15, 2012, Loss Prevention personnel interviewed the Respondent who gave a written statement admitting to 80 various thefts from the bottles in the pharmacy and from customers' prescription bags. A search of her purse

found various controlled pills, which were handed over to the County police. The Respondent was suspended from work, arrested and charged with theft and three counts of possession of a controlled substance.

### **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 2012 Supp.).

#### <u>ORDER</u>

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 registration 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 2012 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.