

BEFORE THE KANSAS BOARD OF PHARMACY

In the Matter of )  
 ) Case No. 22-065  
MELISSA THOMSON, PharmD )  
Kansas License No. 1-15413 )

**STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the Kansas Board of Pharmacy (the “Board”) and Melissa Thomson, PharmD (“Respondent”) as follows:

1. The Board is represented herein by its attorney, Brenda L. Head of Frieden & Forbes, 1414 SW Ashworth Place, Suite 201, Topeka, Kansas 66604. The Respondent is represented herein by her attorney, N/A.

2. The Board is the Kansas agency vested with the authority to carry out and enforce the provisions of the Kansas Pharmacy Law, K.S.A. 65-1626 *et seq.*, (the “Act”) including conducting hearings and proceedings to revoke, suspend or otherwise discipline a Kansas license to practice pharmacy.

3. The Respondent is presently entitled to engage in the practice of pharmacy in the State of Kansas by reason of the Board having issued her Kansas license number 1-15413 (“Kansas License”). At all times relevant hereto, the Respondent has held a current license to engage in the practice of pharmacy in the State of Kansas.

4. The Board’s Investigation Member has received certain information, investigated and determined that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Respondent has committed one or more acts in violation of K.S.A. 65-1627(a) which would justify the revocation or imposition of other disciplinary action against her Kansas License under the provisions of K.S.A. 65-1627(a) and the assessment of an appropriate fine against Respondent under the provisions of K.S.A. 65-1658.

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5. Respondent hereby admits and waives any further proof in this or any other proceeding before or initiated by the Board, and upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board finds:

A. On November 19, 2019, the Board issued a Summary Order based upon Respondent being found guilty of unprofessional conduct, including the diversion of tizanidine from Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy, and placed Respondent on Probation for a period of two (2) years.

B. On February 23, 2022, the Board received a report from Eric Driggers, PharmD at Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy, providing the following information:

1. It was discovered on February 22, 2022, at approximately 8:00 p.m. that the Respondent had falsified prescriptions for Tramadol 50 mg and Pregabalin 150 mg from Hillsboro Hometown Pharmacy; and

2. A current DEA 106 report indicated the issue was identified on February 22, 2022, when a duplicate Tramadol was noted and the Tramadol had been filled on February 21, 2022 after hours when the Respondent was alone in the Pharmacy which was identified and verified by video monitoring; and

3. Respondent was called into the Pharmacy at approximately 8:00 p.m. on February 22, 2022 and she confessed to the unlawful fill of the prescriptions and drug diversion for personal use.

C. A licensed pharmacist who diverts prescription drugs for personal use and unlawfully fills prescriptions without a lawful prescription for the drug poses a serious health risk to that individual and constitutes an imminent danger to the public health and safety.

D. On February 25, 2022, an Emergency Agency Order was issued by the Board suspending Respondent's Kansas License. (A true and correct copy is attached).

Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed, the Board finds and concludes that Respondent's conduct, as described above, violates the Act and such conduct warrants the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action against Respondent's Kansas License pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1627(a)(3), (4), (5), (6), (8) and (13).

6. The Respondent agrees and consents and the Board finds concludes and orders that the following disposition is just and appropriate under the circumstances:

A. **SUSPENSION.** Respondent hereby agrees and consents to the Board's entry of an order whereby her license to practice pharmacy in the State of Kansas is suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year, beginning February 25, 2022, which requires one (1) year of clean drug tests and a substance abuse and mental health evaluation. If Respondent commits an act during the suspension period that constitutes a violation of the Pharmacy Practices Act or the Board's regulations or fails to meet any condition set out in this stipulation, the period of suspension continues. Respondent may apply for reinstatement of her license after successful completion of at least one (1) year of clean drug tests and a substance abuse and mental health evaluation as required by KsPRN.

B. **KsPRN REQUIREMENT.**

1. The Respondent, if she has not already done so, shall immediately enter into a *Statement of Understanding* agreement with the Kansas Pharmacists Association ("KPhA") and the Committee on Impaired Pharmacy Practice Program ("CIPP") which operates the Kansas Pharmacist Recovery Network ("KsPRN") for a period of no less than five (5) years. Respondent shall fully cooperate with the recommendations and requirements of the persons

managing and implementing the evaluation and treatment program recommended and requested by the KsPRN Agreement and the further requirements of the Board. Respondent shall, at all times, be in full compliance with the requirements of the KsPRN Agreement and other requirements placed upon her by the KsPRN, *including, but not limited to, full and continued compliance with the requirement to cooperate with requests for random body fluid drug screens as provided in the KsPRN Agreement.*

2. The Respondent shall authorize KsPRN and any provider of evaluation or treatment programs she engages in to provide full and complete documentation and information regarding the Respondent's involvement in the programs, her evaluations and treatment, including, but not limited to, records and medical reports.

C. PROBATION. The Respondent agrees and the Board orders that the Respondent's Kansas License will be placed on a status of probation after the reinstatement from suspension and during the period of time of her enrollment in KsPRN.

D. PERMANENT LICENSE RESTRICTIONS. The Respondent agrees and the Board orders that Respondent shall not ever serve as a Pharmacist-in-Charge or Preceptor.

E. NOTIFICATIONS. The Respondent agrees and the Board orders that Respondent shall:

- i. Require the Owners of any pharmacy or drug-related employer and the Pharmacist-in-Charge to acknowledge receipt of this Stipulation and Consent Order.
- ii. Notify the Board of all contact information and employment changes within five (5) days; and
- iii. Notify the Board of any criminal arrest and/or charges within five (5) days.

F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that as a condition of this Stipulation and Consent Order she must, and the Board further orders the Respondent to:

1. Comply fully with this Stipulation and Consent Order; and
2. Comply fully with the Kansas Pharmacy Act, the Board's rules and regulations and all state and federal laws relating to Kansas pharmacies.

7. Respondent agrees that all information in the possession of the Board's Investigation Member, its staff, its investigators and or its attorney regarding the investigation which lead to this disciplinary action and all information discovered during the pendency of the disciplinary action may be disclosed to and considered by the Board as part of the presentation and consideration of the proposal of settlement in the form of this Stipulation and Consent Order, with or without the presence of the Respondent or her attorney. In the event that this Stipulation and Consent Order is not accepted and approved by the Board, the Respondent further waives any objection to the Board members' consideration of this Stipulation and Consent Order or the information mentioned in the preceding sentence and further agrees to waive any claim of due process violation or the right to seek the disqualification of any Board member as a result of the Board member's consideration of said document and information.

8. The stipulations contained herein shall not become binding until this Stipulation and Consent Order is approved and entered as a final order by the Board. The Respondent acknowledges that the approval of the Board's Investigation Member or its attorney shall not constitute the approval of the Board or bind the Board to approve this Stipulation and Consent Order.

9. The Respondent agrees that this Stipulation and Consent Order is in conformance with Kansas and federal law and the Board has jurisdiction to enter into it as a final order of the Board. The Respondent further agrees, for purposes of this matter, that the Kansas Pharmacy Act, K.S.A. 65-1626 *et seq.* is constitutional on its face and as applied in this case.

10. This Stipulation constitutes the entire agreement of the parties and may only be modified by a subsequent writing signed by them. The agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Kansas.

11. The Respondent acknowledges that she has the following rights:

- (a) To have formal notice of charges served upon her;
- (b) To file a response to the charges;
- (c) To have notice of and participate in a formal adjudicative hearing with the Board or its designee making specific findings of facts and conclusions of law based only upon evidence admitted at such hearing; and
- (d) To take advantage of all applicable provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act, K.S.A. 77-501 *et seq.* and the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A. 77-601 *et seq.*

The Respondent freely waives these rights and acknowledges that said waiver is made voluntarily and in consideration of the Board's limiting the disciplinary action taken against her to those provided for herein. The Respondent further waives the right to seek reconsideration or appeal or otherwise contest this Stipulation and Consent Order and the Consent Order provided for herein.

12. The Respondent acknowledges that she enters into this Stipulation and Consent Order freely and voluntarily after consultation with or an opportunity to consult with counsel of

her choosing. The Respondent further acknowledges that she has read this Stipulation and Consent Order in its entirety, that she understands its legal consequences and that she agrees that none of its terms are unconscionable, arbitrary or capricious.

13. Time is of the essence to this Stipulation and Consent Order. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that any violation of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall constitute a willful violation of a lawful Board order and grounds for further disciplinary action against her. The pendency of any disciplinary action arising out of an alleged violation of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall not affect the obligation of Respondent to comply with all terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Consent Order.

14. This Stipulation and Consent Order constitutes the entire and final agreement of the parties. In the event any provision of this Stipulation and Consent Order is deemed invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall be severed and the remaining provisions of this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be given full force and effect.

15. Upon approval and entry of the Final Order by the Board, this Stipulation and Consent Order shall be a public record in the custody of the Board.

16. This Stipulation and Consent Order shall become effective on the day it is approved, accepted and made an order of the Board by way of signature of the Board's authorized representative.

17. The Respondent acknowledges that she has been advised by the Board that she would have the right within 15 days after service of the Final Order provided for herein to file a petition for reconsideration with the Board and the right within 30 days after service of the Final Order provided for herein to file a petition for judicial review in the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas in accordance with the Kansas Judicial Review Act, K.S.A. 77-601 *et seq.* and

to serve such a petition for judicial review on the Kansas Board of Pharmacy by serving Alexandra Blasi, JD, MBA, its Executive Secretary at 800 SW Jackson St., Suite 1414, Topeka, KS 66612. The Respondent hereby waives those rights.

ENTERED AND EFFECTIVE this 27 day of April, 2023.

KANSAS BOARD OF PHARMACY

By:

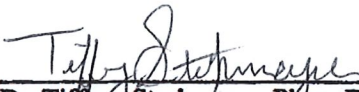
  
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DR. TERICA GATEWOOD, PharmD  
President



AGREED AND APPROVED BY:

  
Melissa Thomson, PharmD

March 24, 2023  
Date

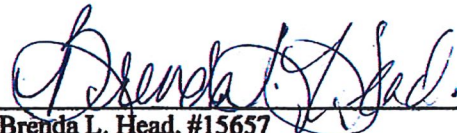
  
Dr. Tiffany Strohmeyer, PharmD  
Investigation Member

4-27-2023  
Date

N/A

Respondent's Attorney's Name & Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
Brenda L. Head, #15657  
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Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 354-1100  
[bhead@fflawllp.com](mailto:bhead@fflawllp.com)  
Counsel for the Kansas Board of Pharmacy

March 27, 2023  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing STIPULATION AND CONSENT ORDER was served by depositing same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, this 28th day of April, 2023 addressed to:

Brenda L. Head  
FRIEDEN & FORBES, LLP  
1414 SW Ashworth Place, Suite 201  
Topeka, KS 66604  
[bhead@fflawllp.com](mailto:bhead@fflawllp.com)

and

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Representative of the  
KANSAS BOARD OF PHARMACY