

# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN

BEFORE THE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

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IN THE MATTER OF THE

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST:

THOMAS G. PIRE, R.Ph.,

RESPONDENT

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER**

LS0110108PHM  
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The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Thomas G. Pire, R.Ph.

18585 Woodberry Ct.

Brookfield, WI 53045

Pharmacy Examining Board

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing

Division of Enforcement

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Thomas G. Pire (dob 4/21/55) was at all times relevant to this proceeding duly licensed under the provisions of Chapter 450, Wis. Stats., to practice as a registered pharmacist in the State of Wisconsin, under license number 9468, first granted on 12/9/78. Respondent was previously disciplined by the Board on 9/12/89 in file 86 PHM 42; respondent was at that time the owner and managing pharmacist of Silver Spring Pharmacy and each was disciplined for filing fraudulent third party claims and excessive OTC C-V sales. Respondent was also disciplined by the Board on 6/13/90 in file 89 PHM 76; respondent was found to have violated the 9/12/89 Order by practicing while suspended, by removing and concealing pharmacy records from the Board, and by falsely reporting to the Board that a certain pharmacist had succeeded respondent as managing pharmacist, when in fact respondent knew that such was not the case. Respondent's license was suspended for three years and limited to not owning any interest in a pharmacy without approval of the Board and not dispensing any C-V substance without a prescription, he was also ordered to forfeit \$6,000 and costs. Respondent's suspension was terminated and his license reinstated, subject to the limitations described, on 3/17/94.

2. On or about 6/6/01, respondent practiced as a relief pharmacist in Snyder Drugstore, Paddock Lake, Wisconsin. On that and other days, he removed without authority at least the following: 100 Adderall® 20mg, 200 tramadol 50mg, 300 benzphetamine 50mg, and 100 phentermine 37.5mg. All of these except tramadol are controlled substances.

3. On or about 6/8/01, respondent practiced as a relief pharmacist at K-Mart Pharmacy #4486, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On that and other days, he removed without authority at least the following: 6x100 benzphetamine 50mg and 278 phentermine 30mg, both controlled substances.
4. On 6/19/01, respondent admitted himself to Rogers Memorial Hospital for detoxification, and on 6/25/01, respondent transferred to the Herrington Recover Center at Rogers Memorial Hospital. He was continued in residential treatment until 8/17/01, when he was discharged to outpatient treatment with staff approval, with the following diagnoses: sedative dependence, opiate dependence, and amphetamine dependence.
5. Respondent represents to the Board that he has continued in treatment since his discharge, and that he has not consumed any unprescribed mood altering substance since 6/19/01.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- A. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter and authority to take disciplinary action against the Respondent pursuant to §450.10(1), Wis. Stats. and ch. Phar 10, Wis. Adm. Code .
- B. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to §227.44(5), Wis. Stats.
- C. The facts set forth in ¶¶2-3, above, constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to §450.10(1)(a)2. and 3., 450.11(7)(h), 943.20(1)(a), and 961.41(3g), Wis. Stats., and §§ Phar 8.05(2) and 10.03(1), Wis. Adm. Code.

#### ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That the STIPULATION of the parties, attached hereto, is ACCEPTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective on the date of this Order, the license of Thomas G. Pire, R.Ph., to practice pharmacy is SUSPENDED.

1. STAY OF SUSPENSION. After one year from the date of this Order, the suspension may be STAYED for a period of three months, conditioned upon compliance with the conditions and limitations outlined in paragraph 2., below.

- a. Respondent may apply for an initial and then for consecutive three (3) month extensions of the stay of suspension, which shall be granted upon acceptable demonstration of compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed on the respondent for rehabilitation and practice during the prior three (3) month period. "Three months" means until the third regular Board meeting after the meeting at which any stay of suspension is granted.
- b. The Board may without hearing deny an application for extension of the stay, or commence other appropriate action, upon receipt of information that respondent has violated any of the terms or conditions of this Order. If the Board denies the petition by the respondent for an extension, the Board shall afford an opportunity for hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code upon timely receipt of a request for hearing.
- c. The applications for extension under 1.a. and all required reports under 2.a-c. shall be due on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the month in which the Board will consider the request for an extension, and each three months thereafter, for the period that this Order remains in effect.
- d. Respondent shall forthwith surrender all indicia of licensure to the Department by mail or in person, and the Department shall issue limited licensure credentials to respondent when he qualifies for such credentials. Respondent shall also surrender all indicia of licensure to any agent of the Department who requests them.

2. CONDITIONS OF STAY AND LIMITATIONS. The initial stay of suspension and any subsequent stay shall be conditioned upon the following terms and limitations:

- a. Non-Prescription Use of Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited. Respondent shall remain free of, prescription drugs and controlled substances not prescribed by a practitioner for legitimate medical purposes. Respondent shall not consume beverage alcohol for any purpose. Respondent shall have his physician report in writing to the supervising physician or therapist under paragraph 2.b.(1) all medications prescribed to the respondent within 3 days of such prescribing. Respondent shall in addition refrain from the consumption of over-the-counter medications or other substances which may mask consumption of controlled substances or of alcohol, or which may create false positive screening

results, or which may interfere with respondent's treatment and rehabilitation.

b. Rehabilitation, Monitoring and Treatment Program. Respondent shall continue to participate in a rehabilitation, monitoring and treatment program acceptable to the Board for the treatment of chemical abuse and dependency. Such program shall consist of the following elements and requirements:

(1) AODA Rehabilitation. Respondent shall continue to participate in an AODA rehabilitation program under the care and supervision of a qualified physician or therapist (hereinafter, "supervising physician or therapist"), at an accredited drug and alcohol abuse/dependency treatment facility. Respondent shall obtain from the Pharmacy Examining Board prior approval of the drug and alcohol abuse/dependency treatment facility and the supervising physician or therapist. The supervising physician or therapist shall be responsible for the Respondent's total rehabilitation program. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this order to his supervising physician or therapist. Respondent shall participate in and comply with all recommendations for treatment, subject to the requirements of this order.

(2) Individual/Group Therapy. The rehabilitation program shall include and respondent shall participate in individual and/or group therapy sessions for the first year of the stayed suspension upon a schedule as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than once weekly. Such therapy shall be conducted by the supervising physician or therapist, or another qualified physician or therapist as designated by the supervising physician or therapist and acceptable to the Board. After the first year of stayed suspension, this requirement for therapy sessions may be modified only upon written petition, and a written recommendation by the supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting the modifications sought. A denial of such petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of the license under §§ 227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

(3) AA/NA Meetings. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, upon a frequency as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than one meeting per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to the supervising physician or therapist.

(4) Drug and alcohol monitoring. Within thirty (30) days from the date of the signing of this Order the Respondent shall enroll and begin participation in a drug and alcohol monitoring program which is approved by the department pursuant to Wis. Admn. Code § RL 7.11, ("Approved Program").

(a) The Department Monitor, Board or Board designee shall provide to the Respondent a list of Approved Programs, however, the Respondent is solely responsible for timely enrollment in any such Approved Program.

(b) Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the Approved Program shall require the testing of urine specimens at a frequency of not less than:

(i) 96 times for the first year following the date Respondent resumes the practice of pharmacy, or once per week if not practicing pharmacy.

(ii) 72 times for the second year following the date Respondent resumes the practice of pharmacy.

(iii) 48 times each year for the third through fifth years following the date Respondent resumes the practice of pharmacy.

(c) The Department Monitor, Board or Board designee shall determine the tests to be performed upon the urine specimens.

(d) The Respondent shall comply with all requirements for participation in drug and alcohol monitoring established by the Approved Program, including but not limited to;

(i) contact with the Approved Program as directed on a daily basis, including weekends and holidays, and;

(ii) timely submission of urine specimens.

(e) The Board in its discretion without a hearing and without further notice to the Respondent may modify this Order to require the submission of hair or breath

specimens or that any urine or hair specimen be furnished in a directly witnessed manner.

(f) All expenses of enrollment and participation in the Approved Program shall be borne by the Respondent. The Respondent shall keep any account for such payments current in all respects.

(g) For purposes of further Board action under this Order it is rebuttably presumed that all confirmed positive test results are valid. Respondent has the burden of proof to establish by a preponderance of the evidence an error in collection, testing or other fault in the chain of custody which causes an invalid confirmed positive test result.

(5) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports from his supervising physician or therapist directly to the Board evaluating and reporting:

(a) A summary of Respondent's progress in his rehabilitation program to date, and all recommendations for continuing rehabilitation treatment,

(b) Respondent's attendance in NA/AA meetings,

(c) Respondent's participation in and results of his random witnessed urine and/or blood screening program.

Such quarterly reports shall be due on the dates specified under paragraph 1.d. of this Order.

(6) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall self-report, and shall arrange for agreement by his supervising physician or therapist, and his employer to report immediately to the Board any conduct or condition of respondent that may constitute a danger to the public in his practice of pharmacy, and any occurrence that constitutes a failure on the part of respondent to comply with the requirements of this Order or treatment recommendations by the supervising physician or therapist, including any indications of consumption of alcohol or unauthorized use of any controlled substances, failure to appear for a urine or blood screening, notice of any positive blood and/or urine screen for alcohol or controlled substances, and any urine specimen that is below a specific gravity of 1.008.

c. Practice of Pharmacy: Limitations and Conditions. Any practice of Pharmacy by respondent during the pendency of this Order shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) Full Compliance with Order Required. Respondent shall not practice as a pharmacist in any capacity unless he is in full compliance with the rehabilitation and treatment programs as specified and approved under this Order.

(2) No Managing Pharmacist. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "managing pharmacist" as defined in § Phar 1.02(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

(3) No Pharmacist in Charge. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "pharmacist in charge" as defined in § Phar 1.02(9), Wis. Adm. Code.

Terms for Modification of Prohibition on Practice as Pharmacist In Charge. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of this prohibition against practice as a pharmacist in charge after one year or 2000 hours of supervised practice and compliance by respondent with all terms and conditions of this Order. Any such petition shall be accompanied by written request of the supervising pharmacist, which shall include a complete work schedule of all pharmacists employed in the pharmacy indicating the proposed work schedule and supervision pattern for respondent. Such petition shall also include a written recommendation of the supervising physician or therapist specifically addressing the modification sought. The Board in its discretion may at any time modify any of the terms regarding practice by respondent as a pharmacist in charge, including removal of authorization under this Order of respondent to practice as a pharmacist in charge, as the Board deems appropriate in the circumstances. Grounds for modification or removal of the authorization to practice as a pharmacist in charge may include, but shall not be limited to, change in employer, managing pharmacist or residence address of the respondent. Modification of these terms and conditions, or removal of authorization under this Order of respondent to practice as a pharmacist in charge shall not be deemed a class 1 or class 2 proceeding under §§227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or Ch. RL 1 or 2, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to a further hearing or appeal.

(4) Provision of Copy of Order to Employers. Respondent shall provide his employer and any prospective employers (including the managing pharmacist of any pharmacy in which respondent practices) with a copy of this Stipulation and Final Decision and Order immediately upon issuance of this Order, and upon any change in employment or practice location.

(5) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall arrange for his supervising pharmacist to provide directly to the Board quarterly written reports evaluating Respondent's work performance, which shall include reports or information required under subparagraph (6) and (7) hereunder. Such reports shall be due on the dates specified in paragraph 1.d. of this Order.

(6) Monitoring of Access to Drugs. Respondent shall obtain agreement from his supervising pharmacist to monitor Respondent's access to and accountability for handling of controlled substances and other abuseable prescription drugs in order to reasonably detect loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy relating to controlled substances and other abuseable prescription drugs. Respondent's supervisor shall include in the quarterly reports a description of Respondent's access to controlled substances and other abuseable drugs and the monitoring thereof. Any loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy shall be immediately reported to the Board.

(7) Controlled Substances Audits. In addition to the foregoing subparagraph (6), Respondent shall obtain from his supervising pharmacist agreement to conduct a full and exact (not estimated) count of the following controlled substances in inventory immediately, and accountability audits of all controlled substances every six months for the duration of this Order. The audit shall be conducted by and certified by a licensed pharmacist other than respondent, who shall be approved by the Board. A summary of all audits required under this subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly report following the audit, however, any discrepancy or missing drugs indicated by the audits shall be immediately reported in writing to the Board.

(8) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his supervising pharmacist to immediately report to the Board and to the supervising physician or therapist any conduct or condition of Respondent that may constitute a violation of this Order or a danger to the public.

d. Consents for Release of Information. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with his supervising physician/therapist and all treatment facilities and personnel current releases which comply with state and federal laws, authorizing release of all his medical and drug and alcohol counseling, treatment and monitoring records to the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, and permitting his supervising physician/therapist and treating physicians and therapists to disclose and discuss the progress of his treatment and rehabilitation and all matters relating thereto with the Pharmacy Examining Board or its duly authorized representatives or agents. Copies of these releases shall be filed simultaneously with the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Division of Enforcement. Respondent shall also provide and keep on file with his current employer(s) current releases authorizing release of all employment records and reports regarding Respondent to the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Division of Enforcement, and authorizing his employer to discuss with the Board or its authorized agents and representatives Respondent's employment history, progress and status and all matters relating thereto. Copies of these employment records releases shall be filed simultaneously with the Board and the Division of Enforcement.

e. Notification of Change of Address and Employment. The Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence address or phone number within five (5) days of any such change.

3. COSTS AND RESTITUTION. Respondent shall pay partial COSTS of this investigation under §440.22, Wis. Stats. in the amount \$100, to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, and shall make restitution for any losses caused by the conduct described in this order, within 60 days of this Order.

4. PHARMACY OWNERSHIP PROHIBITED. Respondent shall not own in whole or in part any interest in a pharmacy during the period of time this Order remains in effect.

5. TERMS FOR MODIFICATION OF ORDER. Following successful compliance with and fulfillment of the provisions of paragraph 2. of this Order for a period of two years, the Respondent may petition the Board, in conjunction with an application for extension of the stay of suspension, for modification of the conditions or limitations for stay of suspension. Any such petition shall be accompanied by a written recommendation of respondent's supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. A denial of such a petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of license under §§227.01(3), or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or Ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

6. RESPONDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS AND EXPENSES OF

COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses of complying with this Order and for arranging any alternative means for covering such costs and expenses.

7. BOARD/DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS. The Board or the Department in its discretion may conduct unannounced inspections and/or audits, and make copies, of pharmacy records and inventory where respondent is employed as a pharmacist.

8. VIOLATIONS OF ORDER. Violation of any of the terms of this Order or of any law substantially relating to the practice of pharmacy may result in a summary suspension of the Respondent's license; the denial of an extension of the stay of suspension or the termination of the stay; the imposition of additional conditions and limitations; or the imposition of other additional discipline, including revocation of license. Upon request of the Department Monitor or a prosecuting attorney, the Board's Monitoring Liaison or the Board Chair may terminate a stay of suspension until the next meeting of the Board, after giving respondent notice of an alleged violation and the opportunity to be heard.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Order shall become effective immediately upon issuance by the Pharmacy Examining Board, except for provision 2.a., which is effective the date of signing by respondent.

10. PREVIOUS ORDERS. All limitations imposed by previous orders of the Board remain in effect, unless expressly modified by this Order.

Dated this October 10, 2001.

PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

John Bohlman\_

A Member of the Board