# BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

\* \* \* \* \*

In the Matter of Charges and Complaint

**Against:** 

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

111

SHARRON L. THOMPSON, M.D.,

Respondent.

Case No. 25-53177-1

JUN - 4 2025

**NEVADA STATE BOARD OF** 

# **COMPLAINT**

The Investigative Committee<sup>1</sup> (IC) of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners (Board), by and through Donald K. White, Senior Deputy General Counsel and attorney for the IC, having a reasonable basis to believe that Sharron L. Thompson, M.D. (Respondent) violated the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 630 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 630 (collectively, the Medical Practice Act), hereby issues its Complaint, stating the IC's charges and allegations as follows:

- Respondent was at all times relative to this Complaint a medical doctor holding an 1. active license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada (License No. 20439). Respondent was originally licensed by the Board on October 15, 2020.
- During the time relative to this Complaint, Respondent practiced medicine at the Las 2. Vegas Comprehensive Pain Management Center (LVCPMC), located at 8930 West Sunset Road, Suite 350, Las Vegas, Nevada.
  - In 2021, Respondent worked with David James Smith, M.D. at LVCPMC. 3.
- During the time relative to this Complaint, Dr. Smith did not have a license to 4. prescribe controlled substances in Nevada from the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy (NSBOP).

27 <sup>1</sup> The Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, at the time this formal 28

Complaint was authorized for filing, was composed of Board members Bret W. Frey, M.D., Carl N. Williams, Jr., M.D., and Col. Eric D. Wade (USAF) Ret.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

- Respondent received her license to prescribe in Nevada from the NSBOP in 5. December 2020.
- Respondent permitted Dr. Smith to utilize her license to prescribe controlled 6. substances by pre-signing blank prescriptions for patients at LVCPMC and giving Dr. Smith access to them.
- Respondent also did not possess a pharmaceutical dispensing license from the 7. NSBOP at the times relative to this Complaint.
- On December 6, 2023, the NSBOP entered into a Stipulation and Order with 8. Respondent after finding Respondent in violation of the following:
  - Improper storage and labeling of dangerous drugs and controlled substances; a.
- Failure to dispose of expired drugs, including fentanyl, clonidine b. hydrochloride, baclofen, dexamethasone, and injectable vitamin solutions; and
- Signing blank prescriptions before filling them out so that others at LVCPMC c. could use her name and credentials to prescribe controlled substances.

### See Exhibit 1.

# COUNT I

# NRS 630.306(1)(b)(3) - Violation of Statutes and Regulations of the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

- All of the allegations contained in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated by 9. reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Respondent is a practitioner as defined by NRS 639.0125(1), as a physician, who 10. holds a license to practice medicine in the State of Nevada.
- NRS 630.306(1)(b)(3) provides that engaging in conduct that violates a provision of 11. Chapter 639 of the NRS, or a regulation adopted by the NSBOP pursuant thereto, that is applicable to a licensee who is a practitioner, as defined in NRS 639.0125, is grounds for initiating discipline against a licensee.

27 III

28 111 1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

111

12.	Respondent entered into a Stipulation and Order with the NSBOP to resolve he
violations of	multiple statutes and regulations, including those in Chapter 639 of the Nevada
Revised Stati	utes.

By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 13. provided in NRS 630.352.

# COUNT II

# NRS 630.306(1)(p) - Unsafe or Unprofessional Conduct

- All of the allegations in the above paragraphs are hereby incorporated as if fully set 14. forth herein.
- Engaging in any act that is unsafe or unprofessional conduct in accordance with 15. regulations adopted by the Board is grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee pursuant to NRS 630.306(1)(p).
- Pursuant to NAC 630.230(1)(p), it is prohibited professional conduct for a physician 16. to [a]cquire any controlled substances from any pharmacy or other source by misrepresentation, fraud, deception or subterfuge.
- Respondent's conduct was unsafe and unprofessional when she pre-signed blank 17. prescriptions and then gave access to these blank prescriptions to another provider to complete, who did not have a license to prescribe in Nevada. This conduct is in a manner that deviated from regulations adopted by the Board.
- By reason of the foregoing, Respondent is subject to discipline by the Board as 18. provided in NRS 630.352.

# WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

- That the Board give Respondent notice of the charges herein against her and give her 1. she may file an answer to the Complaint herein as set forth in notice that NRS 630.339(2) within twenty (20) days of service of the Complaint;
- That the Board set a time and place for a formal hearing after holding an Early Case 2. Conference pursuant to NRS 630.339(3);

4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	

28

1

2

3

- 3. That the Board determine what sanctions to impose if it determines there has been a violation or violations of the Medical Practice Act committed by Respondent;
- 4. That the Board award fees and costs for the investigation and prosecution of this case as outlined in NRS 622.400;
- 5. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of fact, conclusions of law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed; and
- 6. That the Board take such other and further action as may be just and proper in these premises.

DATED this 4th day of June, 2025.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

DONALD K. WHITE

Senior Deputy General Counsel

9600 Gateway Drive

Reno, NV 89521 Tel: (775) 688-2559

Email: dwhite@medboard.nv.gov

Attorney for the Investigative Committee

# OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners

9600 Gateway Drive Reno, Nevada 89521 (775) 688-2559

# VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA	) : ss
COUNTY OF WASHOE	)
Bret W. Frey, M.D.,	havi
perjury that he is the Chairma	ın of
Examiners that authorized	the (

ing been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate and correct.

DATED this day of June, 2025.

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE TATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By:

Chairman of the Investigative Committee

# EXHIBIT 1

# EXHIBIT 1



# BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY,

Petitioner,

v.

SHARRON THOMPSON, M.D., Certificate of Registration No. CS31142,

Respondent.

CASE NO. 21-183-CS-S

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

This matter came before the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023. Gregory L. Zunino, Senior General Counsel, prosecuted the case before the Board. Respondent Sharron Thompson, M.D., Certificate of Registration No. CS31142, failed to appear after being properly noticed of the time, date, and place of the hearing. Pursuant to NRS 622A.350(2) and NRS 638.244(2), the Board adopted, as its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the allegations, averments, and legal conclusions stated in the Notice of Intended Action and Accusation on file herein. Those allegations, averments, and legal conclusions are restated below with minor conforming changes, as appropriate, to reflect the Board's determination to impose professional discipline in this case.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Nevada State Board of Pharmacy ("Board") has personal jurisdiction over Respondent Sharron Thompson, M.D. ("Thompson"), because Thompson holds a certificate of registration issued by the Board that authorizes her to prescribe controlled substances in Nevada. Thompson holds certificate of registration no. CS31142, which was issued by the Board pursuant to NRS 453.226 and NRS 453.231.
- 2. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this accusation because, at the time of the violations alleged herein, Thompson was engaged in the "practice of pharmacy" as that term is defined at NRS 639.0124.

- 3. Copies of the Notice of Intended Action and Accusation, and the accompanying Statement to the Respondent and Notice of Hearing, were properly served upon Thompson at her last-known address on record with the Board.
- 4. Thompson is a physician licensed by the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners to practice medicine in Nevada. In 2021, Thompson practiced medicine at the Las Vegas Comprehensive Pain Management Center ("LVCPMC"), located at 8930 West Sunset Road, Suite 350, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 5. At all times relevant to this case, Thompson was a "practitioner" as that term is defined at NRS 639.0125 and NRS 453.126.
- 6. In 2021, Thompson worked in partnership or association with, or was employed by David James Smith, M.D. ("Smith"), who then identified himself as the "Medical Director" of the LVCPMC.
- 7. Smith has never held a certificate of registration issued by the Board. Thompson has held her certificate of registration since December 15, 2020.
- 8. In 2019 and 2020, Smith held a financial interest in Direct Compounding and Outsourcing, LLC ("Direct Compounding"), which owned and operated a compounding pharmacy in Henderson, Nevada. In 2021, the Board revoked Direct Compounding's pharmacy license due to mismanagement and lack of drug security.
- 9. Smith relied upon Thompson to procure and prescribe any controlled substances that were administered or dispensed to patients of the LVCPMC.
- 10. Thompson permitted Smith to use Thompson's name and credentials to prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances to patients of the LVCPMC. Thompson did so by signing prescription blanks and then leaving them at the LVCPMC in an area where Smith could access them, complete the necessary information on the blank, and then transmit the completed prescriptions to pharmacies.
- 11. Thompson knew or should have known that Smith used Thompson's name and credentials to prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances to patients of the LVCPMC.

- 12. On September 2, 2021, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation searched and/or occupied the premises of the LVCPMC based on suspicions that Smith had over-prescribed fentanyl and other controlled substances.
- 13. Board Investigator Kenneth Scheuber accompanied federal agents as they searched and/or occupied the premises of the LVCPMC on September 2, 2021. While on the premises, Investigator Scheuber discovered prescription blanks that had ostensibly been signed by Thompson. Three signed prescription blanks contained no date, no patient information, and no drug information. A fourth signed prescription was dated and contained patient information, but it contained no drug information.
- 14. While on the premises of the LVCPMC, Investigator Scheuber photographed the areas where the LVCPMC stored dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Investigator Scheuber later asked Thompson to respond to his written questions about the storage and labeling of the dangerous drugs and controlled substances depicted in the photographs, some of which had been purchased from Direct Compounding.
- 15. In her written communications with Investigator Scheuber, Thompson admitted to a lack of familiarity with LVCPMC's practices and procedures concerning the procurement, storage, and disposal of dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Thompson stated that questions would be more appropriately directed to Smith.
- 16. While on the premises of the LVCPMC, Investigator Scheuber observed several vials and containers with labels indicating that their drug contents had been held beyond their expiration dates. When asked about these expired drugs, Thompson could not explain why the expired drugs were commingled with other non-expired drugs, or why the expired drugs had not been destroyed.
- 17. According to their labels, the expired drugs at the LVCPMC included fentanyl, clonidine hydrochloride, baclofen, dexamethasone, and injectable vitamin solutions. Fentanyl is classified as a controlled substance under both state and federal law. See 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11; NAC 453.520(3). The others are "dangerous drugs" as that term is defined at NRS 454.201.

- 18. In her written statement dated March 27, 2023, Thompson generally acknowledged that the LVCPMC had improperly stored and/or had failed to label dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Thompson attributed blame to Smith and stated that she had terminated her employment with the LVCPMC.
  - 19. Thompson admitted that she had signed prescription blanks before filling them out.
- 20. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson commingled or allowed persons under her supervision to commingle expired drugs and controlled substances with non-expired drugs and controlled substances.
- 21. The expired and non-expired drugs and controlled substances were commingled in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances.
- 22. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store unlabeled dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances. These dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances were "nonsterile compounded drug products" as that term is defined at NAC 639.6665.
- 23. When asked about the unlabeled drugs and/or controlled substances, Thompson could not identify them or confirm their origin.
- 24. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson possessed at least 3 prescription blanks that she had signed before filling them out. During the same time frame, Thompson possessed at least 1 signed prescription that contained no drug information. This supports an inference that Thompson planned to allow other persons at the LVCPMC, including Smith, to use her name and credentials to prescribe controlled substances in her absence.
- 25. As the holder of a certificate of registration issued by the Board, Thompson had a legal duty to understand and comply with Nevada's statutes and regulations governing the storage, labeling, prescribing, and dispensing of dangerous drugs and controlled substances.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 26. The Board may revoke or suspend the registration of any practitioner who has violated, attempted to violate, assisted, or abetted in the violation of, or conspired to violate any of the provisions of NRS chapter 639 or any state or federal law or regulation relating to drugs, the manufacture or distribution of drugs, or the practice of pharmacy. See NRS 639.210(12); NRS 453.231(1)(b); NRS 453.236(1)(e).
- 27. Additionally, the Board may revoke or suspend the registration of any practitioner who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or conduct contrary to the public interest. See NRS 639.210(4); NRS 453.231(1)(h); NRS 453.236(1)(e).
- 28. A practitioner's conduct is deemed unprofessional and contrary to the public interest if the person performs his or her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner, or if the person aids or abets a person not licensed to practice pharmacy in Nevada. NAC 639.945(1)(i) and (j).
- 29. "Practice of pharmacy' includes, but is not limited to, the . . . [p]erformance or supervision of activities associated with manufacturing, compounding, labeling, dispensing and distributing of a drug, including the receipt, handling and storage of prescriptions and other confidential information relating to patients," NRS 639.0124(1)(a).
- 30. It is unlawful for a practitioner to dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug in violation of any regulation adopted by the Board. See NRS 453.381(8); NRS 454.215; NRS 454.301. The term "dispense" includes the prescribing by a practitioner, administering, packaging, labeling, or compounding necessary to prepare a substance for delivery to a patient. NRS 639.0065; NRS 453.056.
- 31. In lieu of revoking or suspending a practitioner's registration for violating the law or engaging in unprofessional conduct, the Board may impose fines as a disciplinary measure. See NRS 639.255; NAC 639.955.

- 32. It is unlawful for a practitioner to knowingly or intentionally "[p]ossess prescription blanks which have been signed before being filled out." NRS 453.331(1)(h).
- 33. It is unlawful for a practitioner to knowingly or intentionally "falsely make, alter, forge, utter, publish or pass, as genuine, any prescription for a controlled substance." NRS 453.331(1)(f).
- 34. A practitioner who maintains a stock of controlled substances and/or dangerous drugs must not commingle expired substances and unexpired substances in a storage area from which the substances are withdrawn from inventory for administering or dispensing to patients. NAC 639.050(2); NAC 639.473.
- 35. Any pharmacist who prepares nonsterile compounded drug products must label each product with "[t]he name of the final compounded drug product or the name of each active ingredient present in the nonsterile compounded drug product and, as appropriate, the concentration of each active ingredient in the final compounded drug product." NAC 639.6703(1)(a). A practitioner who procures, stores, administers, or dispenses an unlabeled nonsterile compounded drug products assists or abets in the violation by the pharmacist who failed to label that product.

# COUNT ONE Possession/Use of Signed Prescription Blanks

- 36. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson possessed at least 3 prescription blanks that she had signed before filling them out. During the same time frame, Thompson possessed at least 1 signed prescription that contained no drug information.
- 37. By knowingly possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above, Thompson violated NRS 453.331(1)(h). This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(12).
- 38. By possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).

39. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# COUNT TWO Assisting or Abetting the Unlicensed Practice of Pharmacy

- 40. By knowingly possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson assisted or abetted Thompson to falsely make or pass as genuine a prescription for a controlled substance. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 453.331(1)(f); NRS 639.210(12).
- 41. By signing prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson assisted or abetted Smith in the unlicensed practice of pharmacy. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(j).
- 42. By signing prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
  - 43. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# <u>COUNT THREE</u> Improper Storage of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Substances

- 44. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area from which LVCPMC withdrew those drugs and/or controlled substances from inventory for administering or dispensing to patients.
- 45. Thompson commingled or allowed persons under her supervision to commingle the expired drugs and/or controlled substances and the unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances.

- 46. By commingling expired and unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances as described above, Thompson violated NAC 639.050(2) and/or NAC 639.473. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(12).
- 47. By allowing persons under her supervision to commingle expired and unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances as described above, Thompson assisted or abetted in a violation of NAC 639.050(2) and/or NAC 639.473. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(12).
- 48. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
  - 49. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# <u>COUNT FOUR</u> Failure To Label Compounded Drug Product

- 50. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store unlabeled dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances. These dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances were "nonsterile compounded drug products" as that term is defined at NAC 639.6665.
- 51. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson assisted or abetted in a violation of NAC 639.6703(1)(a) by the pharmacy and/or pharmacist who dispensed such nonsterile compounded drug products. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(12); NRS 453.381(8).
- 52. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is

unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).

53. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board imposes upon Respondent Sharron Thompson, M.D., Certificate of Registration No. CS31142, the following professional discipline:

- 1. Thompson's Certificate of Registration No. CS31142 is hereby **REVOKED** pursuant to NRS 453.236 and NRS 453.241. Pursuant to NRS 622A.410(1) and NRS 639.257(1), Thompson may not petition the Board for reinstatement for a period of one (1) year. Thompson may not prescribe controlled substances in the state of Nevada in any capacity unless the Board reinstates her certificate of registration.
- 2. Thompson shall pay an administrative fine in the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$2,500.00), payable to the State of Nevada, Office of the Treasurer.
- 3. Thompson shall reimburse the Board for its costs of investigation and prosecution in the amount of One Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00), payable to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy.
- 4. This Order constitutes a final decision in a contested case and a public record pursuant to NRS 639.255(5) and shall be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1396r–2 and 45 CFR Part 60.
  - 5. This Order is effective immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered this / day of December 2023.

Helen Park, President

Nevada State Board of Pharmacy



State of Nevada Board of Pharmacy
GREGORY L. ZUNINO (4805)
Senior General Counsel – ext. 124
zunino@pharmacy.nv.gov
PETER KEEGAN (12237)
General Counsel – ext. 123
p.keegan@pharmacy.nv.gov
BRETT KANDT (5384)
Of Counsel – ext. 134
b.kandt@pharmacy.nv.gov
985 Damonte Ranch Pkwy., #206
Reno, Nevada 89521
(775) 850-1440

### BEFORE THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY,

Petitioner,

v.

SHARRON THOMPSON, M.D., Certificate of Registration No. CS31142,

### Respondent.

CASE NO. 21-183-CS-S

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION AND ACCUSATION

J. David Wuest, in his official capacity as Executive Secretary of the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, files the following document that will serve as both a notice of intended action under NRS 233B.127(3) and an accusation under NRS 622A.300(1) and NRS 639.241.

### **JURISDICTION**

1. The Nevada State Board of Pharmacy ("Board") has personal jurisdiction over Respondent Sharron Thompson, M.D. ("Thompson"), because Thompson holds a certificate of registration issued by the Board that authorizes her to prescribe controlled substances in Nevada. Thompson holds certificate of registration no. CS31142, which was issued by the Board pursuant to NRS 453.226 and NRS 453.231.

2. The Board has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this accusation because, at the time of the violations alleged herein, Thompson was engaged in the "practice of pharmacy" as that term is defined at NRS 639.0124.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 3. Thompson is a physician licensed by the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners to practice medicine in Nevada. In 2021, Thompson practiced medicine at the Las Vegas Comprehensive Pain Management Center ("LVCPMC"), located at 8930 West Sunset Road, Suite 350, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 4. At all times relevant to this accusation, Thompson was a "practitioner" as that term is defined at NRS 639.0125 and NRS 453.126.
- 5. In 2021, Thompson worked in partnership or association with, or was employed by David James Smith, M.D. ("Smith"), who then identified himself as the "Medical Director" of the LVCPMC.
- 6. Smith has never held a certificate of registration issued by the Board. Thompson has held her certificate of registration since December 15, 2020.
- 7. In 2019 and 2020, Smith held a financial interest in Direct Compounding and Outsourcing, LLC ("Direct Compounding"), which owned and operated a compounding pharmacy in Henderson, Nevada. In 2021, the Board revoked Direct Compounding's pharmacy license due to mismanagement and lack of drug security.
- 8. On information and belief, Smith relied upon Thompson to procure and prescribe any controlled substances that were administered or dispensed to patients of the LVCPMC.
- 9. On information and belief, Thompson permitted Smith to use Thompson's name and credentials to prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances to patients of the LVCPMC. On information and belief, Thompson did so by signing prescription blanks and then leaving them at the LVCPMC in an area where Smith could access them, complete the necessary information on the blank, and then transmit the completed prescriptions to pharmacies.

- 10. On information and belief, Thompson knew or should have known that Smith used Thompson's name and credentials to prescribe and/or dispense controlled substances to patients of the LVCPMC.
- 11. On September 2, 2021, agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation searched and/or occupied the premises of the LVCPMC based on suspicions that Smith had over-prescribed fentanyl and other controlled substances. On information and belief, Smith has since been indicted by a federal grand jury in California on charges related to his prescribing activity. Smith is also the subject of pending disciplinary action by the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners.
- 12. Board Investigator Kenneth Scheuber accompanied federal agents as they searched and/or occupied the premises of the LVCPMC on September 2, 2021. While on the premises, Investigator Scheuber discovered prescription blanks that had ostensibly been signed by Thompson. Three signed prescription blanks contained no date, no patient information, and no drug information. A fourth signed prescription was dated and contained patient information, but it contained no drug information.
- 13. While on the premises of the LVCPMC, Investigator Scheuber photographed the areas where the LVCPMC stored dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Investigator Scheuber later asked Thompson to respond to his written questions about the storage and labeling of the dangerous drugs and controlled substances depicted in the photographs, some of which had been purchased from Direct Compounding.
- 14. In her written communications with Investigator Scheuber, Thompson admitted to a lack of familiarity with LVCPMC's practices and procedures concerning the procurement, storage, and disposal of dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Thompson stated that questions would be more appropriately directed to Smith.
- 15. While on the premises of the LVCPMC, Investigator Scheuber observed several vials and containers with labels indicating that their drug contents had been held beyond their expiration

dates. When asked about these expired drugs, Thompson could not explain why the expired drugs were commingled with other non-expired drugs, or why the expired drugs had not been destroyed.

- 16. According to their labels, the expired drugs at the LVCPMC included fentanyl, clonidine hydrochloride, baclofen, dexamethasone, and injectable vitamin solutions. Fentanyl is classified as a controlled substance under both state and federal law. See 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11; NAC 453.520(3). The others are "dangerous drugs" as that term is defined at NRS 454.201.
- 17. In her written statement dated March 27, 2023, Thompson generally acknowledged that the LVCPMC had improperly stored and/or had failed to label dangerous drugs and controlled substances. Thompson attributed blame to Smith and stated that she had terminated her employment with the LVCPMC.
  - 18. Thompson admitted that she had signed prescription blanks before filling them out.
- 19. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson commingled or allowed persons under her supervision to commingle expired drugs and controlled substances with non-expired drugs and controlled substances.
- 20. The expired and non-expired drugs and controlled substances were commingled in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances.
- 21. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store unlabeled dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances. On information and belief, these dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances were "nonsterile compounded drug products" as that term is defined at NAC 639.6665.
- 22. When asked about the unlabeled drugs and/or controlled substances, Thompson could not identify them or confirm their origin.
- 23. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson possessed at least 3 prescription blanks that she had signed before filling them out. During the same time frame, Thompson possessed at least 1 signed prescription that contained no drug information. This supports an inference

that Thompson planned to allow other persons at the LVCPMC, including Smith, to use her name and credentials to prescribe controlled substances in her absence.

24. As the holder of a certificate of registration issued by the Board, Thompson had a legal duty to understand and comply with Nevada's statutes and regulations governing the storage, labeling, prescribing, and dispensing of dangerous drugs and controlled substances.

# APPLICABLE LAW

- 25. The Board may revoke or suspend the registration of any practitioner who has violated, attempted to violate, assisted, or abetted in the violation of, or conspired to violate any of the provisions of NRS chapter 639 or any state or federal law or regulation relating to drugs, the manufacture or distribution of drugs, or the practice of pharmacy. *See* NRS 639.210(12); NRS 453.231(1)(b); NRS 453.236(1)(e).
- 26. Additionally, the Board may revoke or suspend the registration of any practitioner who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or conduct contrary to the public interest. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NRS 453.231(1)(h); NRS 453.236(1)(e).
- 27. A practitioner's conduct is deemed unprofessional and contrary to the public interest if the person performs his or her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner, or if the person aids or abets a person not licensed to practice pharmacy in Nevada. NAC 639.945(1)(i) and (j).
- 28. "Practice of pharmacy' includes, but is not limited to, the . . . [p]erformance or supervision of activities associated with manufacturing, compounding, labeling, dispensing and distributing of a drug, including the receipt, handling and storage of prescriptions and other confidential information relating to patients." NRS 639.0124(1)(a).
- 29. It is unlawful for a practitioner to dispense a controlled substance or dangerous drug in violation of any regulation adopted by the Board. *See* NRS 453.381(8); NRS 454.215; NRS 454.301. The term "dispense" includes the prescribing by a practitioner, administering, packaging, labeling, or

compounding necessary to prepare a substance for delivery to a patient. NRS 639.0065; NRS 453.056.

- 30. In lieu of revoking or suspending a practitioner's registration for violating the law or engaging in unprofessional conduct, the Board may impose fines as a disciplinary measure. *See* NRS 639.255; NAC 639.955.
- 31. It is unlawful for a practitioner to knowingly or intentionally "[p]ossess prescription blanks which have been signed before being filled out." NRS 453.331(1)(h).
- 32. It is unlawful for a practitioner to knowingly or intentionally "falsely make, alter, forge, utter, publish or pass, as genuine, any prescription for a controlled substance." NRS 453.331(1)(f).
- 33. A practitioner who maintains a stock of controlled substances and/or dangerous drugs must not commingle expired substances and unexpired substances in a storage area from which the substances are withdrawn from inventory for administering or dispensing to patients. NAC 639.050(2); NAC 639.473.
- 34. Any pharmacist who prepares nonsterile compounded drug products must label each product with "[t]he name of the final compounded drug product or the name of each active ingredient present in the nonsterile compounded drug product and, as appropriate, the concentration of each active ingredient in the final compounded drug product." NAC 639.6703(1)(a). A practitioner who procures, stores, administers, or dispenses an unlabeled nonsterile compounded drug product assists or abets in the violation by the pharmacist who failed to label that product.

# **COUNT ONE**

# Possession/Use of Signed Prescription Blanks

35. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson possessed at least 3 prescription blanks that she had signed before filling them out. During the same time frame, Thompson possessed at least 1 signed prescription that contained no drug information.

- 36. By knowingly possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above, Thompson violated NRS 453.331(1)(h). This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(12).
- 37. By possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
  - 38. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# Assisting or Abetting the Unlicensed Practice of Pharmacy

- 39. By knowingly possessing the signed prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson assisted or abetted Thompson to falsely make or pass as genuine a prescription for a controlled substance. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 453.331(1)(f); NRS 639.210(12).
- 40. By signing prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson assisted or abetted Smith in the unlicensed practice of pharmacy. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(j).
- 41. By signing prescription blanks as described above and then leaving them at the LVCPMC where Smith had access to them, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
  - 42. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

## **COUNT THREE**

# Improper Storage of Dangerous Drugs and/or Controlled Substances

- 43. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area from which LVCPMC withdrew those drugs and/or controlled substances from inventory for administering or dispensing to patients.
- 44. Thompson commingled or allowed persons under her supervision to commingle the expired drugs and/or controlled substances and the unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances.
- 45. By commingling expired and unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances as described above, Thompson violated NAC 639.050(2) and/or NAC 639.473. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(12).
- 46. By allowing persons under her supervision to commingle expired and unexpired drugs and/or controlled substances as described above, Thompson assisted or abetted in violation of NAC 639.050(2) and/or NAC 639.473. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(12).
- 47. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. See NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
  - 48. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above.

# <u>COUNT FOUR</u> Failure To Label Compounded Drug Product

49. Between January 1, 2021, and September 2, 2021, Thompson stored or allowed persons under her supervision to store unlabeled dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances in an area where LVCPMC maintained its stock of useable drugs and controlled substances. On information and belief,

these dangerous drugs and/or controlled substances were "nonsterile compounded drug products" as that term is defined at NAC 639.6665.

- 50. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson assisted or abetted in violation of NAC 639.6703(1)(a) by the pharmacy and/or pharmacist who dispensed such nonsterile compounded drug products. This is a violation of law for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(12); NRS 453.381(8).
- 51. By engaging in the conduct described above, Thompson performed her duties as the holder of a license issued by the Board in an incompetent, unskillful, or negligent manner. This is unprofessional conduct for which the Board may impose administrative discipline. *See* NRS 639.210(4); NAC 639.945(1)(i).
- 52. The Board may discipline Thompson based upon any one of the grounds stated above WHEREFORE it is requested that the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy take appropriate disciplinary action with respect to the certificate of registration of Respondent Shannon Thompson.

> J. David Wuest, R.Ph., Executive Secretary Nevada State Board of Pharmacy