

**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against:

IQRA AHMAD, Respondent

Intern Pharmacist License Applicant

Agency Case No. 7495

OAH No. 2023050826

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2024.

It is so ORDERED on December 18, 2023.

BOARD OF PHARMACY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By



Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D.
Board President

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 KAREN R. DENVER
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KATELYN E. DOCHERTY
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 322028
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-6277
Facsimile: (916) 327-8643
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

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9 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF PHARMACY
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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13 In the Matter of the Statement of Issues
Against:

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15 **IQRA AHMAD**
16 **Intern Pharmacist License Applicant**
17 Respondent.

Case No. 7495

OAH No. 2023050826

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

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19
20 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-
21 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

22 **PARTIES**

23 1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy
24 (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by
25 Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Katelyn E. Docherty, Deputy Attorney
26 General.

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1 10. Respondent agrees that her Intern Pharmacist License is subject to denial and she
2 agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

3 **CONTINGENCY**

4 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Pharmacy. Respondent
5 understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may
6 communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to
7 or participation by Respondent or her counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent
8 understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation
9 prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation
10 as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or
11 effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties,
12 and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

13 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile
14 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile
15 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

16 13. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an
17 integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement.
18 It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions,
19 negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
20 Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a
21 writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

22 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that
23 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following
24 Disciplinary Order:

25 **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

26 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that upon satisfaction of statutory and regulatory requirements
27 thereof, an Intern Pharmacist License shall be issued to Respondent Iqra Ahmad and shall be
28 immediately revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation

1 three (3) years upon the following terms and conditions. Should the board subsequently issue a
2 license to practice as a pharmacist to respondent during the period of probation, the intern license
3 shall be cancelled and the pharmacist license shall be immediately revoked. The revocation of
4 such license shall be stayed, and the probation imposed by this decision and order will continue.
5 Respondent shall remain subject to the same terms and conditions imposed by this disciplinary
6 order. Notwithstanding this provision, the board reserves the right to deny respondent's
7 application for the pharmacist licensure exam.

8 1. Obey All Laws

9 Respondent shall obey all state and federal laws and regulations.

10 Respondent shall report any of the following occurrences to the board, in writing, within
11 seventy- two (72) hours of such occurrence:

- 12 • an arrest or issuance of a criminal complaint for violation of any provision of the
13 Pharmacy Law, state and federal food and drug laws, or state and federal controlled
14 substances laws
- 15 • a plea of guilty, or nolo contendere, no contest, or similar, in any state or federal
16 criminal proceeding to any criminal complaint, information or indictment
- 17 • a conviction of any crime
- 18 • the filing of a disciplinary pleading, issuance of a citation, or initiation of another
19 administrative action filed by any state or federal agency which involves
20 respondent's license or which is related to the practice of pharmacy or the
21 manufacturing, obtaining, handling, distributing, billing, or charging for any drug,
22 device or controlled substance.

23 Failure to timely report such occurrence shall be considered a violation of probation.

24 2. Report to the Board

25 Respondent shall report to the board quarterly, on a schedule as directed by the board or its
26 designee. The report shall be made either in person or in writing, as directed. Among other
27 requirements, respondent shall state in each report under penalty of perjury whether there has
28 been compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation.

1 Failure to submit timely reports in a form as directed shall be considered a violation of
2 probation. Any period(s) of delinquency in submission of reports as directed may be added to the
3 total period of probation. Moreover, if the final probation report is not made as directed,
4 probation shall be automatically extended until such time as the final report is made and accepted
5 by the board.

6 3. Interview with the Board

7 Upon receipt of reasonable prior notice, respondent shall appear in person for interviews
8 with the board or its designee, at such intervals and locations as are determined by the board or its
9 designee. Failure to appear for any scheduled interview without prior notification to board staff,
10 or failure to appear for two (2) or more scheduled interviews with the board or its designee during
11 the period of probation, shall be considered a violation of probation.

12 4. Cooperate with Board Staff

13 Respondent shall timely cooperate with the board's inspection program and with the board's
14 monitoring and investigation of respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of
15 Respondent's probation, including but not limited to: timely responses to requests for information
16 by board staff; timely compliance with directives from board staff regarding requirements of any
17 term or condition of probation; and timely completion of documentation pertaining to a term or
18 condition of probation. Failure to timely cooperate shall be considered a violation of probation.

19 5. Continuing Education

20 Respondent shall provide evidence of efforts to maintain skill and knowledge as a
21 pharmacist as directed by the board or its designee.

22 6. Reporting of Employment and Notice to Employers

23 During the period of probation, respondent shall notify all present and prospective
24 employers of the decision in case number 7495 and the terms, conditions and restrictions imposed
25 on respondent by the decision, as follows:

26 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within ten (10) days of
27 undertaking any new employment, respondent shall report to the board in writing the name,
28 physical address, and mailing address of each of respondent's employer(s), and the name(s) and

1 telephone number(s) of all of respondent's direct supervisor(s), as well as any pharmacist(s)-in-
2 charge, designated representative(s)-in-charge, responsible manager, or other compliance
3 supervisor(s) and the work schedule, if known. Respondent shall also include the reason(s) for
4 leaving the prior employment. Respondent shall sign and return to the board a written consent
5 authorizing the board or its designee to communicate with all of respondent's employer(s) and
6 supervisor(s), and authorizing those employer(s) or supervisor(s) to communicate with the board
7 or its designee, concerning respondent's work status, performance, and monitoring. Failure to
8 comply with the requirements or deadlines of this condition shall be considered a violation of
9 probation.

10 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of
11 respondent undertaking any new employment, respondent shall cause (a) Respondent's direct
12 supervisor, (b) Respondent's pharmacist-in-charge, designated representative-in-charge,
13 responsible manager, or other compliance supervisor, and (c) the owner or owner representative
14 of Respondent's employer, to report to the board in writing acknowledging that the listed
15 individual(s) has/have read the decision in case number 7495, and terms and conditions imposed
16 thereby. If one person serves in more than one role described in (a), (b), or (c), the
17 acknowledgment shall so state. It shall be the respondent's responsibility to ensure that these
18 acknowledgment(s) are timely submitted to the board. In the event of a change in the person(s)
19 serving the role(s) described in (a), (b), or (c) during the term of probation, respondent shall cause
20 the person(s) taking over the role(s) to report to the board in writing within fifteen (15) days of
21 the change acknowledging that he or she has read the decision in case number 7495, and the
22 terms and conditions imposed thereby.

23 If respondent works for or is employed by or through an employment service, respondent
24 must notify the person(s) described in (a), (b), and (c) above at every entity licensed by the board
25 of the decision in case number 7495, and the terms and conditions imposed thereby in advance of
26 respondent commencing work at such licensed entity. A record of this notification must be
27 provided to the board upon request.

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1 Furthermore, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen
2 (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment by or through an employment service,
3 respondent shall cause the person(s) described in (a), (b), and (c) above at the employment service
4 to report to the board in writing acknowledging that he or she has read the decision in case
5 number, and the terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to
6 ensure that these acknowledgment(s) are timely submitted to the board.

7 Failure to timely notify present or prospective employer(s) or failure to cause the identified
8 person(s) with that/those employer(s) to submit timely written acknowledgments to the board
9 shall be considered a violation of probation.

10 "Employment" within the meaning of this provision includes any full-time, part-time,
11 temporary, relief, or employment/management service position as a intern pharmacist, or any
12 position for which a intern pharmacist is a requirement or criterion for employment, whether the
13 respondent is an employee, independent contractor or volunteer.

14 7. Notification of Change(s) in Name, Address(es), or Phone Number(s)

15 Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of any change in
16 name, residence address, mailing address, e-mail address or phone number.

17 Failure to timely notify the board of any change in employer, name, address, or phone
18 number shall be considered a violation of probation.

19 8. Restrictions on Supervision and Oversight of Licensed Facilities

20 During the period of probation, respondent shall not supervise any intern pharmacist, be the
21 pharmacist-in-charge, designated representative-in-charge, responsible manager or other
22 compliance supervisor of any entity licensed by the board, nor serve as a consultant. Assumption
23 of any such unauthorized supervision responsibilities shall be considered a violation of probation.

24 9. Probation Monitoring Costs

25 Respondent shall pay any costs associated with probation monitoring as determined by the
26 board each and every year of probation. Such costs shall be payable to the board on a schedule as
27 directed by the board or its designee. Failure to pay such costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall
28 be considered a violation of probation.

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10. Status of License

Respondent shall, at all times while on probation, maintain an active, current Intern Pharmacist License with the board, including any period during which suspension or probation is tolled. Failure to maintain an active, current Intern Pharmacist License shall be considered a violation of probation.

If respondent's intern pharmacist license expires or is cancelled by operation of law or otherwise at any time during the period of probation, including any extensions thereof due to tolling or otherwise, upon renewal or reapplication respondent's license shall be subject to all terms and conditions of this probation not previously satisfied.

11. License Surrender While on Probation/Suspension

Following the effective date of this decision, should respondent cease practice due to retirement or health, or be otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may relinquish Respondent's license, including any indicia of licensure issued by the board, along with a request to surrender the license. The board or its designee shall have the discretion whether to accept the surrender or take any other action it deems appropriate and reasonable. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender of the license, respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation. This surrender constitutes a record of discipline and shall become a part of the respondent's license history with the board.

Upon acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall relinquish respondent's pocket and/or wall license, including any indicia of licensure not previously provided to the board within ten (10) days of notification by the board that the surrender is accepted if not already provided. Respondent may not reapply for any license from the board for three (3) years from the effective date of the surrender. Respondent shall meet all requirements applicable to the license sought as of the date the application for that license is submitted to the board, including any outstanding costs.

12. Practice Requirement – Extension of Probation

Except during periods of suspension, respondent shall, at all times while on probation, be employed as an Intern Pharmacist in California for a minimum of 80 hours per calendar month.

1 Any month during which this minimum is not met shall extend the period of probation by one
2 month. During any such period of insufficient employment, respondent must nonetheless comply
3 with all terms and conditions of probation, unless respondent receives a waiver in writing from
4 the board or its designee.

5 If respondent does not practice as an Intern Pharmacist in California for the minimum
6 number of hours in any calendar month, for any reason (including vacation), respondent shall
7 notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of the conclusion of that calendar month. This
8 notification shall include at least: the date(s), location(s), and hours of last practice; the reason(s)
9 for the interruption or reduction in practice; and the anticipated date(s) on which respondent will
10 resume practice at the required level. Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within
11 ten (10) days following the next calendar month during which respondent practices as a intern
12 pharmacist in California for the minimum of hours. Any failure to timely provide such
13 notification(s) shall be considered a violation of probation.

14 It is a violation of probation for respondent's probation to be extended pursuant to the
15 provisions of this condition for a total period, counting consecutive and non-consecutive months,
16 exceeding thirty-six (36) months. The board or its designee may post a notice of the extended
17 probation period on its website.

18 During respondent's enrollment in a school or college of pharmacy, no minimum practice
19 hours shall be required. Instead, respondent shall report to the board quarterly in writing, in a
20 format and schedule as directed by the board or its designee, on respondent's compliance with
21 academic and vocational requirements, and on respondent's academic progress. Respondent must
22 comply with all other terms and conditions of probation, unless notified in writing by the board or
23 its designee.

24 13. Violation of Probation

25 If respondent has not complied with any term or condition of probation, the board shall
26 have continuing jurisdiction over respondent, and the board shall provide notice to respondent
27 that probation shall automatically be extended, until all terms and conditions have been satisfied
28 or the board has taken other action as deemed appropriate to treat the failure to comply as a

1 violation of probation, to terminate probation, and to impose the penalty that was stayed. The
2 board or its designee may post a notice of the extended probation period on its website.

3 If respondent violates probation in any respect, the board, after giving respondent notice
4 and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that
5 was stayed. If a petition to revoke probation or an accusation is filed against respondent during
6 probation, or the preparation of an accusation or petition to revoke probation is requested from
7 the Office of the Attorney General, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction and the period of
8 probation shall be automatically extended until the petition to revoke probation or accusation is
9 heard and decided.

10 14. Completion of Probation

11 Upon written notice by the board or its designee indicating successful completion of
12 probation, respondent's license will be fully restored.

13 15. Pharmacists Recovery Program (PRP)

14 By no later than ten (10) days after the effective date of this decision, respondent shall have
15 completed all of the following: contacted the Pharmacists Recovery Program (PRP) for
16 evaluation; enrolled in the PRP; completed, signed, and returned the treatment contract as well as
17 any addendums required or suggested by the PRP; successfully completed registration for any
18 drug or alcohol testing mandated by the treatment contract and/or by enrollment in the PRP; and
19 begun compliance with the drug or alcohol testing protocol(s). Respondent shall successfully
20 participate in the PRP and complete the treatment contract and any addendums required or
21 suggested by the PRP. The costs for PRP participation shall be borne by the respondent.

22 If respondent is currently enrolled in the PRP, said participation is now mandatory and as of
23 the effective date of this decision is no longer considered a self-referral under Business and
24 Professions Code section 4362 (a)(2). Respondent shall successfully participate in and complete
25 his or her current contract and any subsequent addendums with the PRP.

26 Respondent shall pay administrative fees as invoiced by the PRP or its designee. Fees not
27 timely paid to the PRP shall constitute a violation of probation. The board will collect unpaid
28 administrative fees as part of the annual probation monitoring costs if not submitted to the PRP.

1 Any of the following shall result in the automatic suspension of practice by respondent and
2 shall be considered a violation of probation:

3 Failure to contact, complete enrollment, and execute and return the treatment contract with
4 the PRP, including any addendum(s), within ten (10) days of the effective date of the decision as
5 directed by the PRP;

6 Failure to complete registration for any drug or alcohol testing mandated by the treatment
7 contract and/or by the PRP, and begin compliance with the testing protocol(s), within ten (10)
8 days of the effective date of the decision as directed by the PRP;

9 Failure to comply with testing protocols regarding daily check-in and/or failure to complete
10 a mandated test as directed by the PRP;

11 Any report from the PRP of material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the
12 treatment contract and/or any addendum(s); or

13 Termination by the PRP for non-compliance, failure to derive benefit, or as a public risk.

14 Respondent may not resume the practice of pharmacy until notified by the board in writing.

15 Probation shall be automatically extended until respondent successfully completes the PRP.

16 The board will provide notice of any such suspension or extension of probation.

17 During any suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of the
18 licensed premises of a wholesaler, third-party logistics provider, veterinary food-animal drug
19 retailer, or any other distributor of drugs which is licensed by the board, or any manufacturer, or
20 any area where dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances are
21 maintained. Respondent shall not practice as a intern pharmacist nor do any act involving drug
22 selection, selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding, dispensing or patient consultation; nor
23 shall respondent manage, administer, or be a consultant to any licensee of the board, or have
24 access to or control the ordering, distributing, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs
25 and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances.

26 During any suspension, respondent shall not engage in any activity that requires the
27 professional judgment of and/or licensure as a intern pharmacist. Respondent shall not direct or
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1 control any aspect of the practice of pharmacy, or of the manufacturing, distributing, wholesaling,
2 or retailing of dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances.

3 Failure to comply with any requirement or deadline stated by this term shall be considered a
4 violation of probation.

5 16. Drug and Alcohol Testing

6 Respondent, at respondent's own expense, shall participate in testing as directed by the
7 board or its designee for the detection of alcohol, controlled substances, and dangerous drugs
8 and/or dangerous devices. Testing protocols may include biological fluid testing (urine, blood),
9 breathalyzer, hair follicle testing, or other testing protocols as directed by the board or its
10 designee. All testing must be pursuant to an observed testing protocol, unless respondent is
11 informed otherwise in writing by the board or its designee. Respondent may be required to
12 participate in testing for the entire probation period and frequency of testing will be determined
13 by the board or its designee.

14 By no later than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this decision, respondent shall
15 have completed all of the following tasks: enrolled and registered with an approved drug and
16 alcohol testing vendor; provided that vendor with any documentation, and any information
17 necessary for payment by respondent; commenced testing protocols, including all required
18 contacts with the testing vendor to determine testing date(s); and begun testing. At all times,
19 respondent shall fully cooperate with the testing vendor, and with the board or its designee, with
20 regard to enrollment, registration, and payment for, and compliance with, testing. Any failure to
21 cooperate timely shall be considered a violation of probation.

22 Respondent may be required to test on any day, including weekends and holidays.
23 Respondent is required to make daily contact with the testing vendor to determine if a test is
24 required, and if a test is required must submit to testing on the same day.

25 Prior to any vacation or other period of absence from the area where the approved testing
26 vendor provides services, respondent shall seek and receive approval from the board or its
27 designee to use an alternate testing vendor to ensure testing can occur. Upon approval,
28 respondent shall enroll and register with the approved alternate drug testing vendor, provide to

1 that alternate vendor any documentation required by the vendor, including any necessary payment
2 by respondent. During the period of absence of the area, respondent shall commence testing
3 protocols with the alternate vendor, including required daily contacts with the testing vendor to
4 determine if testing is required, and required testing. Any failure to timely seek or receive
5 approval from the board or its designee, or to timely enroll and register with, timely commence
6 testing protocols with, or timely undergo testing with, the alternate testing vendor, shall be
7 considered a violation of probation.

8 Upon detection of an illicit drug, controlled substance or dangerous drug, the board or its
9 designee may require respondent to timely provide documentation from a licensed practitioner
10 authorized to prescribe the detected substance demonstrating that the substance was administered
11 or ingested pursuant to a legitimate prescription issued as a necessary part of treatment. All such
12 documentation shall be provided by respondent within ten (10) days of being requested.

13 Any of the following shall be considered a violation of probation and shall result in
14 respondent being immediately suspended from practice as a intern pharmacist until notified by the
15 board in writing that she may resume practice: failure to timely complete all of the steps required
16 for enrollment/registration with the drug testing vendor, including making arrangements for
17 payment; failure to timely commence drug testing protocols; failure to contact the drug testing
18 vendor as required to determine testing date(s); failure to test as required; failure to timely supply
19 documentation demonstrating that a detected substance was taken pursuant to a legitimate
20 prescription issued as a necessary part of treatment; and/or detection through testing of alcohol, or
21 of an illicit drug, or of a controlled substance or dangerous drug absent documentation that the
22 detected substance was taken pursuant to a legitimate prescription and a necessary treatment. In
23 the event of a suspension ordered after detection through testing of alcohol, an illicit drug, or of a
24 controlled substance or dangerous drug absent documentation that the detected substance was
25 taken pursuant to a legitimate prescription and a necessary treatment, the board or its designee
26 shall inform respondent of the suspension and inform her to immediately leave work, and shall
27 notify respondent's employer(s) and work site monitor(s) of the suspension.

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1 During any such suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of
2 the licensed premises of a wholesaler, third-party-logistics provider, veterinary food-animal drug
3 retailer, or any other distributor of drugs which is licensed by the board, or any manufacturer, or
4 any area where dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances are
5 maintained. Respondent shall not practice pharmacy nor do any act involving drug selection,
6 selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding, dispensing or patient consultation; nor shall
7 respondent manage, administer, or be a consultant to any licensee of the board, or have access to
8 or control the ordering, distributing, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs and/or
9 dangerous devices and controlled substances.

10 During any such suspension, respondent shall not engage in any activity that requires the
11 professional judgment of and/or licensure as a intern pharmacist. Respondent shall not direct or
12 control any aspect of the practice of pharmacy, or of the manufacturing, distributing, wholesaling,
13 or retailing of dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices.

14 Failure to comply with any such suspension shall be considered a violation of probation.
15 Failure to comply with any requirement or deadline stated by this term shall be considered a
16 violation of probation.

17 17. Notification of Departure

18 Prior to leaving the probationary geographic area designated by the board or its designee for
19 a period greater than twenty-four (24) hours, respondent shall notify the board verbally and in
20 writing of the dates of departure and return. Failure to comply with this provision shall be
21 considered a violation of probation.

22 18. Abstain from Drugs and Alcohol

23 Respondent shall completely abstain from the possession or use of alcohol, controlled
24 substances, illicit drugs, dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices, or their associated
25 paraphernalia, except when possessed or used pursuant to a legitimate prescription issued as a
26 necessary part of treatment. Respondent shall ensure that she is not in the same physical location
27 as individuals who are using illicit substances even if respondent is not personally ingesting the
28 drugs. Any possession or use of alcohol, dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled

1 substances, or their associated paraphernalia for which a legitimate prescription has not been
2 issued as a necessary part of treatment, or any physical proximity to persons using illicit
3 substances, shall be considered a violation of probation.

4 19. Prescription Coordination and Monitoring of Prescription Use

5 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall submit to the
6 board, for its prior approval, the name and qualifications of a single physician, nurse practitioner,
7 physician assistant, or psychiatrist of respondent's choice, who shall be aware of the respondent's
8 history [with the use of alcohol, illicit drugs, controlled substances, and/or dangerous drugs,
9 and/or of mental illness,] and who will coordinate and monitor any prescriptions for respondent
10 for dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices, controlled substances or mood-altering drugs. The
11 approved practitioner shall be provided with a copy of the board's Statement of Issues and
12 decision. A record of this notification must be provided to the board or its designee upon request.
13 Respondent shall sign a release authorizing the practitioner to communicate with the board or its
14 designee about respondent's treatment(s). The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner,
15 physician assistant, or psychiatrist shall report to the board on a quarterly basis for the duration of
16 probation regarding respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances considered
17 addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited use of any
18 such substances. The board or its designee may require that the single coordinating physician,
19 nurse practitioner, physician assistant or psychiatrist be a specialist in addictive medicine, or
20 consult a specialist in addictive medicine. Should respondent, for any reason, cease supervision
21 by the approved practitioner, respondent shall notify the board or its designee immediately and,
22 within thirty (30) days of ceasing supervision, submit the name of a replacement physician, nurse
23 practitioner, physician assistant, or psychiatrist of respondent's choice to the board or its designee
24 for its prior approval. Failure to timely submit the selected practitioner or replacement
25 practitioner to the board or its designee for approval, or to ensure the required quarterly reporting
26 thereby, shall be considered a violation of probation.

27 If at any time an approved practitioner determines that respondent is unable to practice
28 safely or independently as an intern pharmacist, the practitioner shall notify the board or its

1 designee immediately by telephone and follow up by written letter within three (3) working days.
2 Upon notification from the board or its designee of this determination, respondent shall be
3 automatically suspended and shall not resume practice as a intern pharmacist until notified by the
4 board or its designee that practice may be resumed.

5 During any suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of the
6 licensed premises of a wholesaler, third-party logistics provider, veterinary food-animal drug
7 retailer, or any other distributor of drugs which is licensed by the board, or any manufacturer, or
8 any area where dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances are
9 maintained. Respondent shall not practice pharmacy nor do any act involving drug selection,
10 selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding, dispensing or patient consultation; nor shall
11 respondent manage, administer, or be a consultant to any licensee of the board, or have access to
12 or control the ordering, distributing, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs and/or
13 dangerous devices and controlled substances. Respondent shall not resume practice until notified
14 by the board.

15 During any suspension, respondent shall not engage in any activity that requires the
16 professional judgment and/or licensure as a intern pharmacist. Respondent shall not direct or
17 control any aspect of the practice of pharmacy or of the manufacturing, distributing, wholesaling,
18 or retailing of dangerous drugs and/or dangerous devices or controlled substances.

19 Failure to comply with any requirement or deadline stated by this term shall be considered a
20 violation of probation.

21 20. Facilitated Group Recovery and/or Support Meetings

22 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall begin regular
23 attendance at a group recovery and/or support meeting that is run by a trained facilitator approved
24 in advance by the board or its designee. The required frequency of group meeting attendance
25 shall be determined by the board or its designee. Respondent shall continue regular attendance as
26 directed at an approved facilitated group meeting until the board or its designee advises the
27 respondent in writing that she may cease regular attendance. Respondent shall provide signed
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1 and dated documentation of attendance as required with each quarterly report. Failure to attend as
2 required or to submit documentation of attendance shall be considered a violation of probation.

3 If respondent is required to participate in the PRP, compliance with this term can be
4 demonstrated through that program. Where respondent is enrolled in the PRP, participation as
5 required in a facilitated group meeting approved by the PRP shall be sufficient for satisfaction of
6 this requirement. Any deviation from participation requirements for the PRP-approved group
7 shall be considered a violation of probation.

8 21. Attend Substance Abuse Recovery Relapse Prevention and Support Groups

9 Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, respondent shall begin regular
10 attendance at a recognized and established substance abuse recovery support group in California
11 (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, etc.) which has been approved by the board
12 or its designee. Respondent must attend the number of group meetings per week or month
13 directed by the board or its designee, which shall typically be at least one per week. Respondent
14 shall continue regular attendance and submit signed and dated documentation confirming
15 attendance with each quarterly report for the duration of probation. Failure to attend or submit
16 documentation thereof shall be considered a violation of probation.

17 Where respondent is enrolled in the PRP, participation as required in a recovery group
18 meeting approved by the PRP shall be sufficient for satisfaction of this requirement. Any
19 deviation from participation requirements for the PRP-approved group shall be considered a
20 violation of probation.

21 22. No Ownership or Management of Licensed Premises

22 Respondent shall not own, have any legal or beneficial interest in, nor serve as a manager,
23 administrator, member, officer director, trustee, associate, or partner of any business, firm,
24 partnership, or corporation currently or hereinafter licensed by the board. Respondent shall sell or
25 transfer any legal or beneficial interest in any entity licensed by the board within ninety (90) days
26 following the effective date of this decision and shall immediately thereafter provide written
27 proof thereof to the board. Failure to timely divest any legal or beneficial interest(S) or provide
28 documentation thereof shall be considered a violation of probation.

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Ivan Petrzelka. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Intern Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED: _____
IQRA AHMAD
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Iqra Ahmad the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: _____
IVAN PETRZELKA
Attorney for Respondent

ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED: _____

Respectfully submitted,
ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
KAREN R. DENVIR
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

KATELYN E. DOCHERTY
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Ivan Petrzelka. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Intern Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED: 10/18/23



IQRA AHMAD
Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Iqra Ahmad the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: October 18, 2023



IVAN PETRZELKA
Attorney for Respondent


ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy.

DATED: October 18, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
KAREN R. DENVIR
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



KATELYN E. DOCHERTY
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

Exhibit A

Statement of Issues No. 7495

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 KAREN R. DENVER
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 KATELYN E. DOCHERTY
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 322028
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-6277
Facsimile: (916) 327-8643
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8
9 **BEFORE THE**
BOARD OF PHARMACY
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Statement of Issues
13 Against:

14 **IQRA AHMAD**

15 **Intern Pharmacist License Applicant**

16 Respondent.

Case No. 7495

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

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20 **PARTIES**

21 1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) brings this Statement of Issues solely in her official
22 capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs
23 (Board).

24 2. On or about September 20, 2022, the Board received an application for an Intern
25 Pharmacist License from Iqra Ahmad (Respondent). On or about August 18, 2022, Iqra Ahmad
26 certified under penalty of perjury to the truthfulness of all statements, answers, and
27 representations in the application. The Board denied the application on January 19, 2023.

28 ///

1 **JURISDICTION**

2 3. This Statement of Issues is brought before the Board under the authority of the
3 following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless
4 otherwise indicated.

5 4. Section 4300, subdivision (c), of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board
6 may refuse a license to any applicant guilty of unprofessional conduct. The Board may, in its sole
7 discretion, issue a probationary license to any applicant for a license who is guilty of
8 unprofessional conduct and who has met all other requirements for licensure.

9 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

10 5. Section 480 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

11 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a board may deny a
12 license regulated by this code on the grounds that the applicant has been convicted of
13 a crime or has been subject to formal discipline only if either of the following
14 conditions are met:

15 (1) The applicant has been convicted of a crime within the preceding seven
16 years from the date of application that is substantially related to the qualifications,
17 functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made,
18 regardless of whether the applicant was incarcerated for that crime, or the applicant
19 has been convicted of a crime that is substantially related to the qualifications,
20 functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the application is made
21 and for which the applicant is presently incarcerated or for which the applicant was
22 released from incarceration within the preceding seven years from the date of
23 application. . . .

24 6. Section 493 of the Code states:

25 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, in a proceeding conducted by a board within the
26 department pursuant to law to deny an application for a license or to suspend or revoke a
27 license or otherwise take disciplinary action against a person who holds a license, upon the
28 ground that the applicant or the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related
to the qualifications, functions, and duties of the licensee in question, the record of
conviction of the crime shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction
occurred, but only of that fact.

(b)

(1) Criteria for determining whether a crime is substantially related to the
qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession the board regulates shall
include all of the following:

(A) The nature and gravity of the offense.

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(B) The number of years elapsed since the date of the offense.

(C) The nature and duties of the profession.

(2) A board shall not categorically bar an applicant based solely on the type of conviction without considering evidence of rehabilitation.

(c) As used in this section, “license” includes “certificate,” “permit,” “authority,” and “registration.” . . .

7. Section 4301 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of unprofessional conduct or whose license has been issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

. . .

(f) The commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or corruption, whether the act is committed in the course of relations as a licensee or otherwise, and whether the act is a felony or misdemeanor or not.

(g) Knowingly making or signing any certificate or other document that falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts.

(h) The administering to oneself, of any controlled substance, or the use of any dangerous drug or of alcoholic beverages to the extent or in a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to oneself, to a person holding a license under this chapter, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that the use impairs the ability of the person to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by the license.

. . .

(l) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this chapter. The record of conviction of a violation of Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 801) of Title 21 of the United States Code regulating controlled substances or of a violation of the statutes of this state regulating controlled substances or dangerous drugs shall be conclusive evidence of unprofessional conduct. In all other cases, the record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred. The board may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, in order to fix the degree of discipline or, in the case of a conviction not involving controlled substances or dangerous drugs, to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this chapter. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this provision. The board may take action when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or

1 dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. . . .

2 **REGULATORY PROVISIONS**

3 8. California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 16, section 1769, provides, in
4 pertinent part:

5 ...

6 (b) Denial of a license.

7 (1) When considering the denial of a facility or personal license under Section
8 480 of the Business and Professions Code on the grounds that the applicant has been
9 convicted of a crime, the board will consider whether the applicant made a showing
10 of rehabilitation if the applicant completed the criminal sentence at issue without a
11 violation of parole or probation. In making this determination, the board will consider
12 the following criteria:

13 (A) The nature and gravity of the crime(s).

14 (B) The length(s) of the applicable parole or probation period(s).

15 (C) The extent to which the applicable parole or probation period was shortened
16 or lengthened, and the reason(s) the period was modified.

17 (D) The terms or conditions of parole or probation and the extent to which they
18 bear on the applicant's rehabilitation.

19 (E) The extent to which the terms or conditions of parole or probation were
20 modified, and the reason(s) for modification.

21 (2) If the applicant has not completed the criminal sentence at issue without a
22 violation of parole or probation, or the board determines that the applicant did not
23 make the showing of rehabilitation based on the criteria in paragraph (1) or the denial
24 is based on professional misconduct, the board will apply the following criteria in
25 evaluating an applicant's rehabilitation:

26 (A) The nature and gravity of the act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s)
27 under consideration as grounds for denial.

28 (B) Evidence of any act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) committed
subsequent to the act(s), professional misconduct, or crime(s) under consideration as
grounds for denial under Section 480 of the Business and Professions Code.

(C) The time that has elapsed since commission of the act(s), professional
misconduct, or crime(s) referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B).

1 (D) Whether the applicant has complied with any terms of parole, probation,
2 restitution or any other sanctions lawfully imposed against the applicant.

3 (E) The criteria in paragraphs (1)(A) through (E), as applicable.

4 (F) Evidence, if any, of rehabilitation submitted by the applicant, including as
5 provided in the board's Disciplinary Guidelines, identified in section 1760.

6 ...

7 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1770, states:

8 (a) For the purpose of denial, suspension, or revocation of a personal or facility
9 license pursuant to Section 141 or Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the
10 Business and Professions Code, a crime, professional misconduct, or act shall be
11 considered substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the
12 practice, profession, or occupation that may be performed under the license type
13 sought or held if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of
14 an applicant or licensee to perform the functions authorized by the license in a
15 manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare.

16 (b) In making the substantial relationship determination required under
17 subdivision (a) for a crime, the board will consider the following criteria:

18 (1) The nature and gravity of the offense;

19 (2) The number of years elapsed since the date of the offense; and

20 (3) The nature and duties of the practice, profession, or occupation that may be
21 performed under the license type sought or held.

22 (c) For purposes of subdivision (a), substantially related crimes, professional
23 misconduct, or acts shall include, but are not limited to, those which:

24 (1) Violate or attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or to aid, abet or
25 conspire to violate, any provision of law of this state, or any other jurisdiction,
26 governing the practice of pharmacy.

27 (2) Violate or attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or to aid, abet or
28 conspire to violate, any provision of Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 801) of
Title 21 of the United States Code regulating controlled substances or any law of this
state, or any other jurisdiction, relating to controlled substances or dangerous drugs.

(3) Violate or attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, or to aid, abet or
conspire to violate, any provision of law of this state, or any other jurisdiction,
relating to government provided or government supported healthcare.

(4) Involve dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or corruption related to money, items,
documents, or personal information.

(5) Involve a conviction for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

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FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

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2 10. On or about September 15, 2017, in a case titled *People v. Iqra Ahmad*, Sacramento
3 County Superior Court case number 16MI017483, Respondent was convicted by a jury of
4 violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivisions (a) and (b), both misdemeanors, for driving a
5 vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicating substance (DUI) with a blood alcohol content
6 (BAC) of 0.08% or higher. The circumstances are that on August 24, 2016, at approximately
7 5:30 p.m., Respondent ran off the roadway and hit a power pole, sustaining minor damage to the
8 vehicle. A witness heard the crash and then observed Respondent in the driver’s seat.
9 Respondent told the arresting California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer that she had been driving
10 but she believed her vehicle alignment was “off” causing her to lose control. Respondent’s BAC
11 was determined to be .08%/.09%.

12 11. On or about October 17, 2018, in a case titled *People v. Iqra Ahmad*, Solano County
13 Superior Court case number VCR231789, Respondent was convicted on her plea of no contest to
14 violating Vehicle Code section 23153, subdivision (a), a felony, for DUI and causing bodily
15 injury to another person, with the special allegation of a prior conviction for DUI. The
16 circumstances are that on March 14, 2018, at approximately 5:15 p.m., Vallejo Police Officers
17 responded to the scene of a traffic collision where witnesses and video surveillance footage
18 showed that Respondent had approached an intersection on a red light, driven around a vehicle
19 that had stopped for the light, and proceeded into the intersection where she struck another
20 vehicle. The driver of that vehicle had to be physically extricated from her vehicle and
21 transported to the hospital via ambulance. Respondent was observed by witnesses and on video
22 exiting the driver’s seat of the vehicle, putting her hair up in a ponytail, and attempting to walk
23 away from the accident location. Respondent denied being the driver of her vehicle to witnesses
24 and to the arresting officer, stating that “a guy” had been driving. Respondent’s driver’s license
25 was suspended at the time of this accident due to the previous DUI.

26 12. On or about August 31, 2018, Respondent applied for an Intern Pharmacist License.
27 On or about June 7, 2019, Respondent’s application was denied. As part of this application on or
28 about May 16, 2019, Respondent emailed a written statement about her convictions to the Board.

1 In this statement, Respondent denied being the driver of her vehicle during the August 24, 2016,
2 DUI. Respondent stated that “a guy” was driving despite the witness’ observations of her in the
3 driver’s seat and despite her statement to the arresting CHP officer that she was driving at the
4 time of the crash, as described in paragraph 11, above.

5 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

6 **(Criminal Convictions)**

7 13. Respondent's application is subject to denial under Code sections 480, subdivision
8 (a)(1), 4300, subdivision (c), and 4301, subdivision (I), in conjunction with California Code of
9 Regulations, title 16, section 1770, in that Respondent has been convicted of crimes which are
10 substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a pharmacist. The circumstances
11 are as set forth in paragraphs 10-11, above.

12 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

13 **(Dangerous Use of Alcohol)**

14 14. Respondent's application is subject to denial under Code sections 4300, subdivision
15 (c), and 4301, subdivision (h), in that, as set forth in paragraphs 10 and 11 above, on or about
16 August 24, 2016, and March 14, 2018, Respondent used alcoholic beverages to an extent, or in a
17 manner, as to be dangerous or injurious to herself, others, or the public.

18 **THIRD CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION**

19 **(Signed a Document with False Facts)**

20 15. Respondent's application is subject to denial under Code sections 4300, subdivision
21 (c), and 4301, subdivision (g) in that, as set forth in paragraph 12, above, on or about May 16,
22 2019, Respondent knowingly made or submitted or signed a certificate or other document that
23 falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts when she provided a written
24 statement to the Board in which she falsely stated she was not the driver for her first DUI.

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FOURTH CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Acts Involving Dishonesty, Fraud, or Deceit)

16. Respondent's application is subject to denial under Code sections 4300, subdivision (c), and 4301, subdivision (f) in that, as set forth in paragraph 12, above, on or about May 16, 2019, Respondent knowingly made or submitted or signed a certificate or other document that falsely represents the existence or nonexistence of a state of facts when she provided a written statement to the Board in which she falsely stated she was not the driver for her first DUI.


PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Pharmacy issue a decision:

1. Denying the application of Iqra Ahmad for a Pharmacist Intern license;
2. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 4/26/2023

Sodergren,
Anne@DCA

 Digitally signed by Sodergren,
Anne@DCA
Date: 2023.04.26 20:44:40 -07'00'

ANNE SODERGREN
Executive Officer
Board of Pharmacy
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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