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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No.3351

BRIAN HIGHSMITH

2808 Garvin Street Richmond, CA 94801

Pharmacy Technician Registration No. TCH 64644

Respondent.

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 on June 23, 2010.

It is so ORDERED on May 24, 2010.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Benneth H. Scheel

By

KENNETH H. SCHELL

Board President

		11. In the second secon	
1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California		
2	FRANK H. PACOE Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
3	Joshua A. Room		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 214663		
5	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004		
6	Telephone: (415) 703-1299 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10]	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 3351	
12	BRIAN D. HIGHSMITH 2808 Garvin Street	OAH No. 2010010089	
13	Richmond, California 94801	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
14	Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 64644		
15	Respondent.		
16	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settle	ment of this matter, consistent with the public	
17	interest and the responsibility of the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs,		
18	the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order which will		
19	be submitted to the Board for approval and adopti	on as the final disposition of the Accusation.	
20			
21	<u>PARTIES</u>		
22	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant), Execu	ative Officer, Board of Pharmacy, brought this	
23	action solely in her official capacity and is represe	ented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr.,	
24	Attorney General of the State of California, by Joshua A. Room, Deputy Attorney General.		
25	2. Respondent Brian D. Highsmith (Res	pondent) is represented in this proceeding by	
26	attorney Edgardo Gonzalez, whose address is Law Offices of Edgardo Gonzalez, 1300 Clay		
27	Street, Suite 600, Oakland, CA 94612 (telephone (888) 800-9200).		
28	///		

3. On or about August 22, 2005, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 64644 to Brian D. Highsmith (Respondent). The Pharmacy Technician License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 3351 and will expire on September 30, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 3351 was filed before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on October 30, 2009, and Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A First Amended Accusation was then filed before the Board, and served along with accompanying documentation on Respondent on February 2, 2010. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 3351 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 3351. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First Amended Accusation No. 3351.
- 9. Respondent agrees that his Pharmacy Technician License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board of Pharmacy (Board)'s imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

RESERVATION

10. The admissions made by Respondent are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board of Pharmacy or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Pharmacy. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.

- 13. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 64644, issued to Respondent Brian D. Highsmith (Respondent), is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. Certification Prior to Resuming Work

Respondent shall be automatically suspended from working as a pharmacy technician until he is certified as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4202(a)(4) and provides satisfactory proof of certification to the board. Respondent shall not resume working as a pharmacy technician until notified by the board. Failure to achieve certification within one (1) year shall be considered a violation of probation. Respondent shall not resume working as a pharmacy technician until notified by the board.

During suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of any other board licensed premises (wholesaler, veterinary food-animal drug retailer or any other distributor of drugs) any drug manufacturer, or any other location where dangerous drugs and devices or controlled substances are maintained. Respondent shall not do any act involving drug selection, selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding or dispensing; nor shall respondent manage, administer, or assist any licensee of the board. Respondent shall not have access to or control the ordering, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs and devices or controlled substances. Respondent shall not resume work until notified by the board.

Failure to comply with this suspension shall be considered a violation of probation.

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2. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state and federal laws and regulations.

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

- an arrest or issuance of a criminal complaint for violation of any provision of the Pharmacy Law, state and federal food and drug laws, or state and federal controlled substances laws
- a plea of guilty or nolo contendre in any state or federal criminal proceeding to any criminal complaint, information or indictment
- □ a conviction of any crime
- discipline, citation, or other administrative action filed by any state or federal agency which involves respondent's Pharmacy Technician License or which is related to the practice of pharmacy or the manufacturing, obtaining, handling, distributing, billing, or charging for any drug, device or controlled substance.

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

3. Report to the Board

Respondent shall report to the board quarterly, on a schedule as directed by the board or its designee. The report shall be made either in person or in writing, as directed. Among other requirements, respondent shall state in each report under penalty of perjury whether there has been compliance with all the terms and conditions of probation. Failure to submit timely reports in a form as directed shall be considered a violation of probation. Any period(s) of delinquency in submission of reports as directed may be added to the total period of probation. Moreover, if the final probation report is not made as directed, probation shall be automatically extended until such time as the final report is made and accepted by the board.

4. Interview with the Board

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

5. Cooperate with Board Staff

Respondent shall cooperate with the board's inspection program and with the board's monitoring and investigation of respondent's compliance with the terms and conditions of his probation. Failure to cooperate shall be considered a violation of probation.

6. Status of License

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

If respondent's pharmacy technician 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.

7. No Ownership of Licensed Premises

Respondent shall not own, have any legal or beneficial interest in, or serve as a manager, administrator, member, officer, director, trustee, associate, or partner of any business, firm, partnership, or corporation currently or hereinafter licensed by the board. Respondent shall sell or transfer any legal or beneficial interest in any entity licensed by the board within ninety (90) days following the effective date of this decision and shall immediately thereafter provide written proof thereof to the board. Failure to timely divest any legal or beneficial interest(s) or provide documentation thereof shall be considered a violation of probation.

8. Notification of a Change in Name, Address(es), or Employment

Respondent shall notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of any change of employment. Said notification shall include the reasons for leaving, the address of the new employer, the name of the supervisor and owner, and the work schedule if known. Respondent shall further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of a change in name, residence address and mailing address, or phone number.

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

9. Notice to Employers

During the period of probation, respondent shall notify all present and prospective employers of the decision in case number 3351 and the terms, conditions and restrictions imposed on respondent by the decision, as follows:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment, respondent shall cause his direct supervisor, pharmacist-in-charge (including each new pharmacist-in-charge employed during respondent's tenure of employment) and owner to report to the board in writing acknowledging that the listed individual(s) has/have read the decision in case number 3351 and the terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to ensure that his employer(s) and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgement(s) to the board.

If respondent works for or is employed by or through a pharmacy employment service, respondent must notify his direct supervisor, pharmacist-in-charge and owner at every pharmacy of the terms and conditions of the decision in case number 3351 in advance of the respondent commencing work at each pharmacy. A record of this notification must be provided to the board upon request.

Furthermore, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this decision, and within fifteen (15) days of respondent undertaking any new employment by or through a pharmacy employment service, respondent shall cause his direct supervisor with the pharmacy employment service to report to the board in writing acknowledging that he has read the decision in case number 3351 and the terms and conditions imposed thereby. It shall be respondent's responsibility to ensure that his employer(s) and/or supervisor(s) submit timely acknowledgment(s) to the board.

Failure to timely notify present or prospective employer(s) or to cause such employer(s) to submit timely acknowledgments to the board shall be considered a violation of probation.

"Employment" within the meaning of this provision shall include any full-time, part-time, temporary or relief service or pharmacy management service as a pharmacy technician or in any position for which a pharmacy technician license is a requirement or criterion for employment, whether the respondent is considered an employee, independent contractor or volunteer.

10. Abstain from Drugs and Alcohol Use

Respondent shall completely abstain from the possession or use of alcohol, controlled substances, dangerous drugs and their associated paraphernalia except when the drugs are lawfully prescribed by a licensed practitioner as part of a documented medical treatment. Upon request of the board or its designee, respondent shall provide documentation from the licensed practitioner that the prescription for the drug was legitimately issued and is a necessary part of the treatment of the respondent. Failure to timely provide such documentation shall be considered a violation of probation. Respondent shall ensure that he is not in the same physical location as individuals who are using illicit substances even if respondent is not personally ingesting the drugs. Any possession or use of alcohol, controlled substances, or their associated paraphernalia not supported by the documentation timely provided, and/or any physical proximity to persons using illicit substances, shall be considered a violation of probation.

11. Random Drug Screening

Respondent, at his own expense, shall participate in random testing, including but not limited to biological fluid testing (urine, blood), breathalyzer, hair follicle testing, or other drug screening program as directed by the board or its designee. Respondent may be required to participate in testing for the entire probation period and frequency of testing will be determined by the board or its designee. At all times respondent shall fully cooperate with the board or its designee, and shall, when directed, submit to such tests and samples for the detection of alcohol, narcotics, hypnotics, dangerous drugs or other controlled substances as the board or its designee may direct. Failure to timely submit to testing as directed shall be considered a violation of probation. Upon request of the board or its designee, respondent shall provide documentation from a licensed practitioner that the prescription for a detected drug was legitimately issued and is a necessary part of treatment of respondent. Failure to timely provide such documentation shall be considered a violation of probation. Any confirmed positive test for alcohol or for any drug not lawfully prescribed by a licensed practitioner as part of a documented medical treatment shall be considered a violation of probation and shall result in the automatic suspension of respondent. Respondent may not resume work as a pharmacy technician until notified by the board in writing.

During any such suspension, respondent shall not enter any pharmacy area or any portion of or any other board licensed premises (wholesaler, veterinary food-animal drug retailer or any other distributor of drugs) any drug manufacturer, or any other location where dangerous drugs and devices or controlled substances are maintained. Respondent shall not direct, control or perform any aspect of the practice of pharmacy. Respondent shall not do any act involving drug selection, selection of stock, manufacturing, compounding or dispensing; nor shall respondent manage, administer, or assist any licensee of the board. Respondent shall not have access to or control the ordering, manufacturing or dispensing of dangerous drugs and devices or controlled substances. Respondent shall not resume work until notified by the board.

Failure to comply with any such suspension shall be considered a violation of probation.

12. Attend Substance Abuse Recovery Relapse Prevention and Support Groups

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

13. Reimbursement of Board Costs

As a condition precedent to successful completion of probation, respondent shall pay to the board its costs of investigation and prosecution in the amount of \$4,800.00, payable in full within the first four (4) years of probation in equal quarterly installments of \$300.00. There shall be no deviation from this schedule absent prior written approval by the board or its designee. Failure to pay costs by the deadline(s) as directed shall be considered a violation of probation.

The filing of bankruptcy by respondent shall not relieve respondent of his responsibility to reimburse the board its costs of investigation and prosecution.

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14. Probation Monitoring Costs

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

15. Tolling of Probation

Except during periods of suspension, respondent shall, at all times while on probation, be employed as a pharmacy technician in California for a minimum of forty (40) hours per calendar month. Any month during which this minimum is not met shall toll the period of probation, i.e., the period of probation shall be extended by one month for each month during which this minimum is not met. During any such period of tolling of probation, respondent must nonetheless comply with all terms and conditions of probation.

Should respondent, regardless of residency, for any reason (including vacation) cease working as a pharmacy technician for a minimum of forty (40) hours per calendar month in California, respondent must notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of cessation of work and must further notify the board in writing within ten (10) days of the resumption of the work. Any failure to provide such notification(s) shall be considered a violation of probation.

It is a violation of probation for respondent's probation to remain tolled pursuant to the provisions of this condition for a total period, counting consecutive and non-consecutive months, exceeding thirty-six (36) months.

"Cessation of work" means any calendar month during which respondent is not working for at least forty (40) hours as a pharmacy technician, as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4115. "Resumption of work" means any calendar month during which respondent is working for at least forty (40) hours as a pharmacy technician as defined by Business and Professions Code section 4115.

16. License Surrender While on Probation/Suspension

Following the effective date of this decision, should respondent cease work due to retirement or health, or be otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may tender her pharmacy technician license to the board for surrender. The board or

its designee shall have the discretion whether to grant the request for 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 her pharmacy technician license to the board within ten (10) days of notification by the board that surrender is accepted. Respondent may not reapply for any license, permit, or registration 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.

17. Violation of Probation

If respondent has not complied with any term or condition of probation, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction over respondent, and probation shall automatically be extended, until all terms and conditions have been satisfied or the board has taken other action as deemed appropriate to treat the failure to comply as a violation of probation, to terminate probation, and to impose the penalty that was stayed.

If respondent violates probation in any respect, the board, after giving respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. Notice and opportunity to be heard are not required for those provisions stating that a violation thereof may lead to automatic termination of the stay and/or revocation of the license. If a petition to revoke probation or an accusation is filed against respondent during probation, the board shall have continuing jurisdiction, and the period of probation shall be automatically extended until the petition to revoke probation or accusation is heard and decided.

18. Completion of Probation

Upon written notice by the board indicating successful completion of probation, respondent's pharmacy technician license will be fully restored.

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1	ACCEPTANCE .	
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Scittement and Disciplinary Order and have fully	
3	discussed it with my attorney, Edgardo Gonzalez. I understand the stipulation and the effect it	
4	will have on my Pharmacy Technician License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and	
5	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the	
6	Decision and Order of the Board of Phermacy.	
7	0,000	
8	DATED: 3/10/12 BRIAN D. HIGHSDATH Respondent	
10	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Brian D. Highsmith the terms and	
IJ	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.	
12	I approve its form and content,	
13	DATED: 3/10/10 22	
14	EDGARDO GONZALEZ Attorney for Respondent	
15		
16	ENDORSEMENT	
17	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully	
18	submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.	
19		
20	Dated: Respectfully Submitted,	
21	EDMIND G. BROWN IR. Attorney General of California	
22	FRANK H. PACOS Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
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24	· Takinin A Dani	
25	Joshua A. Room Deputy Attorney General	
26	Attorneys for Complainant	
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STIPULATED SETTLEMENT (Case No. 9351; OAH No. 2010010089)

ACCEPTANCE

1	<u> 1100DI TIMOD</u>		
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have full		
3	discussed it with my attorney, Edgardo Gonzalez. I understand the stipulation and the effect it		
4	will have on my Pharmacy Technician License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and		
5	Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
6	Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.		
7			
8	DATED:		
9	BRIAN D. HIGHSMITH Respondent		
0	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Brian D. Highsmith the terms and		
1	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order		
2	I approve its form and content.		
3	DATED:		
4	EDGARDO GONZALEZ Attorney for Respondent		
5			
6	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
17	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully		
18	submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs.		
19	Dated: 4/2/2010 Respectfully Submitted,		
20			
21	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of California		
22	FRANK H. PACOE Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
23	$O_{11} - O_{22}$		
24	Jøshua A. Room		
25	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
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Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 3351

- 11			
1	Edmund G. Brown Jr.		
2	Attorney General of California FRANK H. PACOE		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JOSHUA A. ROOM		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 214663		
5	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004		
6	Telephone: (415) 703-1299 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 3351		
12	BRIAN D. HIGHSMITH 2808 Garvin Street		
13	Richmond, California 94801 FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION		
14	Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 64644		
15	Respondent.		
16	Complainant alleges:		
17	PARTIES		
18	1. Virginia Herold (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity		
19	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs.		
20	2. On or about August 22, 2005, the Board of Pharmacy issued Pharmacy Technician		
21	License Number TCH 64644 to Brian D. Highsmith (Respondent). The Pharmacy Technician		
22	License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will		
23	expire on September 30, 2011, unless renewed.		
24	JURISDICTION		
25	3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of		
26	Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the		
27	Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.		
28	///		
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- 4. Section 4011 of the Code provides that the Board shall administer and enforce both the Pharmacy Law [Bus. & Prof. Code, § 4000 et seq.] and the Uniform Controlled Substances Act [Health & Safety Code, § 11000 et seq.].
- 5. Section 4300(a) of the Code provides that every license issued by the Board may be suspended or revoked.
- 6. Section 118(b) of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated. Section 4402(a) of the Code provides that any pharmacist license that is not renewed within three years following its expiration may not be renewed, restored, or reinstated and shall be canceled by operation of law at the end of the three-year period. Section 4402(e) of the Code provides that any other license issued by the Board may be canceled by the Board if not renewed within 60 days after its expiration, and any license canceled in this fashion may not be reissued but will instead require a new application to seek reissuance.

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

- 7. Section 4301 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of "unprofessional conduct," defined to include, but not be limited to, any of the following:
- (j) The violation of any of the statutes of this state, of any other state, or of the United States regulating controlled substances and dangerous drugs.
- (l) The conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this chapter.
- (o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency.

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- 8. Section 490 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of the license.
 - 9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1770, states:

"For the purpose of denial, suspension, or revocation of a personal or facility license pursuant to Division 1.5 (commencing with Section 475) of the Business and Professions Code, a crime or act shall be considered substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a licensee or registrant if to a substantial degree it evidences present or potential unfitness of a licensee or registrant to perform the functions authorized by her license or registration in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare."

- 10. Section 4059 of the Code, in pertinent part, prohibits furnishing of any dangerous drug or dangerous device except upon the prescription of an authorized prescriber.
- 11. Section 4060 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that no person shall possess any controlled substance, except that furnished upon a valid prescription/drug order.
- 12. Health and Safety Code section 11170 provides that no person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself or herself.
- 13. Health and Safety Code section 11350, in pertinent part, makes it unlawful to possess a controlled substance in Schedule I, subdivision(s) (b), (c), or (f)(1), Schedule II, subdivision(s) (b) or (c), or any narcotic drug in Schedules III-V, absent a valid prescription.
- 14. Health and Safety Code section 11351, in pertinent part, makes it unlawful to possess for sale or purchase for purposes of sale, a controlled substance in Schedule I, subdivision(s) (b), (c) or (e), or any narcotic drug in Schedules III-V.
- 15. Health and Safety Code section 11351.5, in pertinent part, makes it unlawful to possess for sale, or purchase for purposes of sale, cocaine base.
- 16. Health and Safety Code section 11357, in pertinent part, makes it unlawful for any person to possess marijuana or concentrated cannabis.
- 17. Health and Safety Code section 11359, in pertinent part, makes it unlawful for any person to possess marijuana for sale.

18. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed its reasonable costs of investigation and enforcement.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES / DANGEROUS DRUGS

- 19. Section 4021 of the Code states:
- "'Controlled substance' means any substance listed in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11053) of Division 10 of the Health and Safety Code."
 - 20. Section 4022 of the Code states, in pertinent part:
- "Dangerous drug' or 'dangerous device' means any drug or device unsafe for self use, except veterinary drugs that are labeled as such, and includes the following:
- "(a) Any drug that bears the legend: 'Caution: federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription,' 'Rx only,' or words of similar import. . . .
- "(c) Any other drug or device that by federal or state law can be lawfully dispensed only on prescription or furnished pursuant to Section 4006."
- 21. **Marijuana** is a Schedule I controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11054(d)(13), and a dangerous drug as designated by Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is a hallucinogenic drug.
- 22. **Cocaine** is a Schedule I (in base form) or Schedule II controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code sections 11054(f)(1) and 11055(b)(6) and a dangerous drug as designated by Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is a narcotic drug.
- 23. **Heroin** is a Schedule I controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11054(c)(11) and a dangerous drug as designated by Business and Professions Code section 4022. It is an opiate drug.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

24. On or about September 5, 2004, Oakland Police discovered Respondent sitting in the driver's seat of a parked car with thirty-one (31) small bags of suspected rock (base) cocaine in his lap, a plastic bag with approximately ½ ounce of suspected marijuana on the floorboard at his feet, and other plastic bags containing smaller amounts of marijuana in the driver's seat.

25. On or about January 21, 2007, Oakland Police responded to a report of three men in possession of a firearm, and found Respondent sitting in a parked car with two other men. After Respondent and the two other men were ordered out of the vehicle, and upon detection by the officer(s) of the smell of marijuana, a search of the car turned up, *inter alia*, three (3) small plastic bags containing suspected heroin, and a plastic sandwich bag containing suspected marijuana. Respondent stated that the car belonged to his mother.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of Substantially Related Crime(s))

- 26. Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301(1) and/or section 490 of the Code, by reference to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1770, for conviction of a substantially related crime, in that on or about February 26, 2007, in the criminal case *People v. Brian D. Highsmith*, Case No. 526479A in Alameda County Superior Court, Respondent was convicted of violating Health and Safety Code section 11357, subdivision (a) (Possession of concentrated cannabis), a misdemeanor, as follows:
- a. On or about January 21, 2007, based on the conduct described in paragraph 25 above, Respondent was arrested and subsequently charged in *People v. Brian D. Highsmith*, Case No. 526479A in Alameda County Superior Court, in a three-count complaint with counts two and three alleged only against Respondent's co-defendant, with one (1) count of violating Health and Safety Code section 11357, subdivision (a) (Possession of concentrated cannabis), a felony.
- b. On or about February 26, 2007, Respondent pleaded no contest and was found guilty of a lesser-included version of count one (Health and Safety Code section 11357(a) the possession of concentrated cannabis), and was convicted of a misdemeanor. The imposition of sentence was suspended in favor of a conditional sentence (probation) of three (3) years, on terms and conditions including time served, fines and fees, search conditions, and an order that he stay away from his co-defendants and the block where the January 21, 2007 arrest took place. If he were able to successfully complete two (2) years of probation, Respondent was eligible to petition for an early termination of probation on or about February 26, 2009.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of Substantially Related Crime(s))

- 27. Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301(l) and/or section 490 of the Code, by reference to California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1770, for conviction of a substantially related crime, in that on or about October 23, 2009, in *People v. Brian Highsmith*, Case No. 2429122 in San Francisco County Superior Court, Respondent was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 23103 (Reckless driving), a misdemeanor, as follows:
- a. On or about July 28, 2009, Respondent was arrested and subsequently charged in *People v. Brian Highsmith*, Case No. 2429122 in San Francisco County Superior Court, with violating (1) Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a) (Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs), a misdemeanor, and (2) Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b) (Driving with a blood alcohol of 0.08 percent or higher), a misdemeanor.
- b. On or about October 23, 2009, a third count was added in Case No. 2429122 of violating Vehicle Code section 23103 (Reckless driving), a misdemeanor. Respondent pleaded no contest to this third count. The first two counts were dismissed. The imposition of sentence was suspended in favor of an unsupervised probation of two (2) years, on terms and conditions including time served, fines and fees, and enrollment in a 12-hour First Offenders Program. After 1 year of probation, Respondent may petition for early termination of the probation period.

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THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Furnishing of Controlled Substance)

28. Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301(j) and/or (o) and/or section 4059 of the Code, and/or Health and Safety Code section 11170 in that Respondent, as described in paragraphs 24 to 26 above, furnished to himself or another without a valid prescription, and/or conspired to furnish, and/or assisted or abetted furnishing of, a controlled substance.

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FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Possession of Controlled Substance)

29. Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301(j) and/or (o) and/or section 4060 of the Code, and/or Health and Safety Code section(s) 11350 and/or 11357, in that Respondent, as described in paragraphs 24 to 26 above, possessed, conspired to possess, and/or assisted in or abetted possession of, a controlled substance, without a prescription.

FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Possession or Purchase of Controlled Substance for Sale)

30. Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301(j) and/or (o) of the Code, and/or Health and Safety Code section(s) 11351, 11351.5 and/or 11359, in that Respondent, as described in paragraphs 24 to 26 above, possessed or purchased a controlled substance for sale, or conspired and/or assisted in or abetted such possession or purchase for sale.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

Respondent is subject to discipline under section 4301 of the Code in that Respondent, as described in paragraphs 24 to 30 above, engaged in unprofessional conduct.

DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS

- 32. To determine the proper degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about July 18, 2005, in a case titled *People v. Brian Douglas Highsmith*, Case No. HO2831343 in Santa Clara County Superior (Traffic) Court, Respondent was convicted of violating Vehicle Code section 21956 (Pedestrian on roadway), an infraction, and two counts of violating Vehicle Code section 40508, subdivision (a) (Willful failure to appear in court following a written promise to appear), also infractions, as follows:
- a. On or about June 15, 2003, Respondent was issued Citation / Notice to Appear J28O6754 for violating Vehicle Code section 21956 (Pedestrian on roadway), an infraction.

On or about July 16, 2003, August 1, 2003, September 27, 2003, May 16, 2004, and/or June 21, 2004, Respondent failed to appear in court as ordered, and bench warrant(s) were issued charging him with two (2) counts of violating Vehicle Code section 40508, subdivision (a) (Willful failure to appear in court following a written promise to appear), both misdemeanors.

On or about July 18, 2005, Respondent appeared and pleaded guilty to the one (1) count of violating Vehicle Code section 21956 (Pedestrian on roadway), an infraction and the two (2) counts of violating Vehicle Code section 40508, subdivision (a) (Willful failure to appear in court following a written promise to appear), that were both reduced to infractions. Sentencing on counts two and three was suspended, and Respondent was required to pay total fines and fees on count one of \$62.50 by no later than October 17, 2005. When payment was not made by on or about November 26, 2005, a further bench warrant was issued for Respondent's arrest pursuant to Vehicle Code section 40508, subdivision (b) (Willful failure to pay bail or fine), a misdemeanor, requiring a bail/payment of \$337.50 from Respondent.

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:

- Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Technician License Number TCH 64644, issued to Brian D. Highsmith (Respondent);
- 2. Ordering Respondent to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3;
 - 3. Taking such other and further action as is deemed necessary and proper.

Executive Officer

Board of Pharmacy

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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