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**BEFORE THE
BOARD OF PHARMACY**

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

AHJANAE SADE STEPHENS
3556 W. Yale Ave.
Fresno, CA 93722

**Pharmacy Technician License No.
TCH 170399**

Respondent.

Case No. 7783
OAH No. 2024090576
DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

[Gov. Code, §11520]

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about April 15, 2024, Complainant Anne Sodergren, in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, filed Accusation No. 7783 against Ahjanae Sade Stephens (Respondent) before the Board of Pharmacy. (Accusation attached as Exhibit A.)
2. On or about December 17, 2018, the Board issued Pharmacy Technician License No. TCH 170399 to Respondent. The Pharmacy Technician License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 7783 and will expire on August 31, 2026, unless renewed.
3. On or about April 23, 2024, Respondent was served with Accusation No. 7783.

1 4. On or about May 13, 2024, Respondent signed and returned a Notice of Defense,
2 requesting a hearing in this matter.

3 5. On, September 24, 2024, a Notice of Hearing was served by mail at Respondent's
4 address of record which was and is:

5 3556 W. Yale Ave.

6 Fresno, CA 93722.

7 The Notice of Hearing informed her that an administrative hearing in this matter was scheduled
8 for November 26, 2024.

9 6. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of
10 Government Code section 11505(c) and/or Business and Professions Code section 124.

11 7. The matter was called for hearing at the date, time and location set forth in the Notice
12 of Hearing. The assigned Administrative Law Judge found that the service of the Notice of
13 Hearing on Respondent was proper. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Respondent. A
14 default was declared and on motion of counsel for Complainant, the matter was remanded to the
15 Board under Government Code section 11520.

16 8. Government Code section 11506(c) states, in pertinent part:

17 (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent
18 files a notice of defense . . . and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all
19 parts of the accusation . . . not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense
20 . . . shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its
21 discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.

22 9. California Government Code section 11520(a) states, in pertinent part:

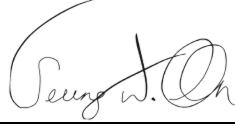
23 (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense . . . or to appear at
24 the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express
25 admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without
26 any notice to respondent

27 10. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Board finds
28 Respondent is in default. The Board will take action without further hearing and, based on the
relevant evidence contained in the Default Decision Investigatory Evidence Packet in this matter,
finds the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 7783, separately and severally, to be true and
correct by preponderance of the evidence.

1 member, officer, director, associate, partner, or serving in any other position with management or
2 control of a licensee. This prohibition shall continue until the license is issued or reinstated.

3 This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2025.

4 It is so ORDERED on January 13, 2025.

5 

6 _____
7 Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D.

8 Board President

9 FOR THE BOARD OF PHARMACY

10 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

11 38577967.docx
12 DOJ Matter ID:SA2024301117

13 Attachment:
14 Exhibit A: Accusation

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Exhibit A

Accusation

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 KAREN R. DENVIR
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 MALISSA N. SIEMANTEL
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 240157
1300 I Street, Suite 125
5 P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
6 Telephone: (916) 210-7555
Facsimile: (916) 324-5567
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 Accusation Against:

Case No. 7783

13 **AHJANAË SADE STEPHENS**

3556 W. Yale Ave.

14 Fresno, CA 93722

ACCUSATION

15 **Pharmacy Technician License No.**
16 **TCH 170399**

17 Respondent.

18 **PARTIES**

19 1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity
20 as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs.

21 2. On or about December 17, 2018, the Board issued Pharmacy Technician License
22 Number TCH 170399 to Ahjanae Sade Stephens (Respondent). The Pharmacy Technician
23 License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will
24 expire on August 31, 2024, unless renewed.

25 **JURISDICTION**

26 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following
27 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise
28 indicated.

1 4. Code section 4300 states, in pertinent part:

2 (a) Every license issued may be suspended or revoked.

3 (b) The board shall discipline the holder of any license issued by the board,
4 whose default has been entered or whose case has been heard by the board and found
5 guilty, by any of the following methods:

6 (1) Suspending judgment.

7 (2) Placing him or her upon probation.

8 (3) Suspending his or her right to practice for a period not exceeding one year.

9 (4) Revoking his or her license.

10 (5) Taking any other action in relation to disciplining him or her as the board in
11 its discretion may deem proper.

12 ...

13 5. Code section 4300.1 states:

14 The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license
15 by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the
16 placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a
17 licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any
18 investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render
19 a decision suspending or revoking the license.

20 **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

21 6. Code section 4301 states, in pertinent part:

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

25 ...

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

...

(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

1 inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, in order to
2 fix the degree of discipline or, in the case of a conviction not involving controlled
3 substances or dangerous drugs, to determine if the conviction is of an offense
4 substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a licensee under this
5 chapter. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo
6 contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this provision. The
7 board may take action when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of
8 conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made
9 suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under
10 Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing the person to withdraw their plea of guilty
11 and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing
12 the accusation, information, or indictment.

13 ...

14 7. Code section 4307 states:

15 (a) Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been
16 revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it
17 was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner, member,
18 officer, director, associate, partner, or any other person with management or control
19 of any partnership, corporation, trust, firm, or association whose application for a
20 license has been denied or revoked, is under suspension or has been placed on
21 probation, and while acting as the manager, administrator, owner, member, officer,
22 director, associate, partner, or any other person with management or control had
23 knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was
24 denied, revoked, suspended, or placed on probation, shall be prohibited from serving
25 as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, partner, or in
26 any other position with management or control of a licensee as follows:

27 (1) Where a probationary license is issued or where an existing license is placed
28 on probation, this prohibition shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed five
years.

(2) Where the license is denied or revoked, the prohibition shall continue until
the license is issued or reinstated.

(b) "Manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate,
partner, or any other person with management or control of a license" as used in this
section and Section 4308, may refer to a pharmacist or to any other person who serves
in such capacity in or for a licensee.

(c) The provisions of subdivision (a) may be alleged in any pleading filed
pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of
the Government Code. However, no order may be issued in that case except as to a
person who is named in the caption, as to whom the pleading alleges the applicability
of this section, and where the person has been given notice of the proceeding as
required by Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of
the Government Code. The authority to proceed as provided by this subdivision shall
be in addition to the board's authority to proceed under Section 4339 or any other
provision of law.

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1 **COST RECOVERY**

2 7. Section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative
3 law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing
4 act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the
5 case, with failure of the licensee to comply subjecting the license to not being renewed or
6 reinstated. If a case settles, recovery of investigation and enforcement costs may be included in a
7 stipulated settlement.

8 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

9 **(Criminal Conviction)**

10 8. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (I),
11 in that on or about December 15, 2023, in the criminal proceeding entitled *People vs. Ahjanae*
12 *Sade Stephens* (Fresno County Super. Ct., Case No. F22900420), Respondent was convicted on
13 her plea of nolo contendere of violating Penal Code section 273.5, subdivision (a) (corporal injury
14 on a spouse/cohabitant), a misdemeanor, a crime substantially related to the qualifications,
15 functions, and duties of a pharmacy technician. The circumstances of the crime are as follows:

16 9. On or about November 9, 2021, Respondent used her fists to hit victim 1, with whom
17 she was in a dating relationship for approximately one year and who was the father of her child,
18 and she also hit him with knives approximately three times. An officer with the Clovis Police
19 Department observed a one-inch laceration on the victim 1's shoulder, a small puncture on his left
20 arm, and a larger laceration on his left bicep. Victim 1 obtained an emergency protective order
21 against Respondent, which prohibited Respondent from being within 100 yards of victim 1 and
22 the apartment she shared with victim 1. On or about November 10, 2021, Respondent violated
23 the emergency protective order when she went to the apartment she shared with victim 1, while
24 victim 1 was present at the apartment, and Respondent got into a verbal argument with victim 1
25 because victim 1 threatened to obtain a longer term restraining order.

26 ///

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1 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

2 **(Acts Involving Moral Turpitude)**

3 10. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 4301, subdivision (f),
4 for unprofessional conduct, in that on or about November 9, 2021, Respondent committed an act
5 involving moral turpitude, as set forth in paragraph 9, above.

6 11. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 4301, subdivision (f),
7 for unprofessional conduct, in that on or about January 27, 2019, Respondent committed an act
8 involving moral turpitude in that Respondent admitted to an officer from the Fresno Police
9 Department that she bit victim 2, with whom she was in a dating relationship for over one year,
10 threw her keys at him, and hit him “everywhere” with a small wooden billy club. Another officer
11 from the Fresno Police Department observed injury to victim 2’s upper lip and a bite mark on his
12 chest.

13 **OTHER MATTERS**

14 12. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Technician
15 License No. TCH 170399 issued to Ahjanae Sade Stephens, she shall be prohibited from serving
16 as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee
17 for five years if the Pharmacy Technician License is placed on probation or until the Pharmacy
18 Technician License is reinstated, if it is revoked.

19 **PRAYER**

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

22 1. Revoking or suspending Pharmacy Technician License Number TCH 170399, issued
23 to Ahjanae Sade Stephens;

24 2. Prohibiting Ahjanae Sade Stephens from serving as a manager, administrator, owner,
25 member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Technician
26 License TCH 170399 is placed on probation or until the Pharmacy Technician License is
27 reinstated, if it is revoked;

28 ///

1 3. Ordering Ahjanae Sade Stephens to pay the Board of Pharmacy the reasonable costs
2 of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code
3 section 125.3; and, if placed on probation, the costs of probation monitoring; and,

4 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

5

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7 DATED: 4/15/2024

Sodergren,
Anne@DCA

Digitally signed by
Sodergren, Anne@DCA
Date: 2024.04.15 19:09:11
-07'00'

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

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