



News Release

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Thurston County pharmacist suspended for diverting controlled substances

OLYMPIA -- State health officials have immediately suspended the license of Thurston County pharmacist Joan M. Hart (PH00011515). According to charging documents, she admitted to her employer, law enforcement, and a Department of Health investigator that she had been diverting controlled substances from her place of employment for her personal use since January 2014.

Charges also state that Hart told the investigator that she had a substance abuse problem.

However, the Department of Health learned in September that she had not contacted a drug and alcohol monitoring program. She has 20 days to respond to the charges and request a hearing.

The statement of charges and the summary action order on this case are available by clicking the link to "[Look up a health care provider license](#)" on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can also be requested by calling 360-236-4700. Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The state Department of Health and Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission protects and promotes public health, safety, and welfare in Washington by regulating the competency and quality of health care providers. The agency establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies, and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to people in Washington.

The [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).

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