

# Emily's Law Revisited: The Pharmacist, the Family, and the Medication Error That Changed Their Lives

## Event Type

Live Online 

## ACPE Expiration Date

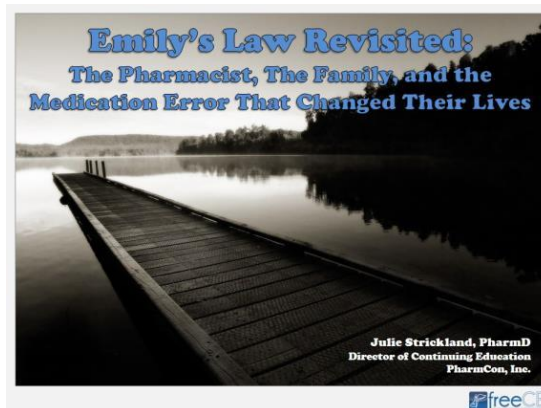
6/20/2014

## Credits

1 Contact Hour

## Target Audience

Nurses, Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians



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## Program Overview

This presentation reviews the effect of a tragic medication error on the lives of the two victims, patient Emily Jerry and pharmacist Eric Cropp. Over the span of seven years since the incident, much has changed in the lives of the families involved and the practice of pharmacy. This compelling and emotional presentation is presented by Eric Cropp and Chris Jerry. This is the sequel to “Emily’s Act: Impact on Public Safety and Medication Errors”, which many participants stated was the most moving continuing education program they have ever attended

## Pharmacist Educational Objectives

- State the chain of events that lead to the making of an improper IV chemotherapy solution for Emily Jerry
- Describe the legal and regulatory issues that impact the pharmacist in charge
- Define the Second Victims and describe what resources are available to pharmacy technicians that may be support dealing with medication errors

## Pharmacy Technician Educational Objectives

- State the chain of events that lead to the making of an improper IV chemotherapy solution for Emily Jerry
- Define the Second Victims and describe what resources are available to pharmacy technicians that may be support dealing with medication errors

## Activity Type

Knowledge

## Accreditation

Pharmacist                    0798-0000-11-038-L03-P  
Pharmacy Technician       0798-0000-11-038-L03-T



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PharmCon, Inc. has been approved as a provider of continuing education for nurses by the Maryland Nurses Association which is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

## Faculty



Julie Bowers Strickland, PharmD  
Director of Continuing Education, PharmCon

## Financial Support Received From

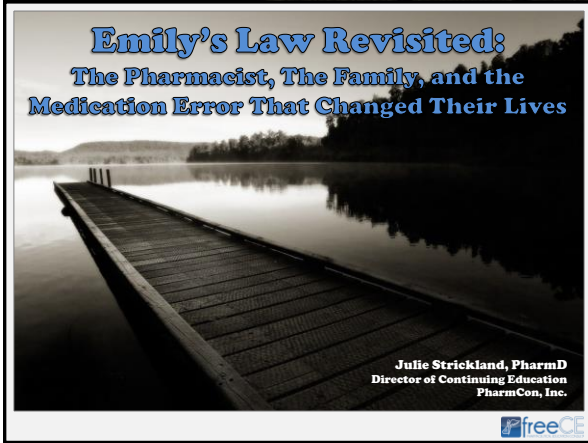
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### Emily's Law Revisited: The Pharmacist, the Family and the Medication Error that Changed Their Lives –LAW-

**Accreditation**  
Pharmacists: 0798-0000-11-038-Lo3-P  
Pharmacy Technicians: 0798-0000-11-038-Lo3-T

**CE Credit(s)**  
1.0 contact hour(s)

**Learning Objectives**

- State the chain of events that lead to the making of an improper IV chemotherapy solution for Emily Jerry
- Describe the legal and regulatory issues that impact the pharmacist in charge
- Define Second Victims and describe what resources are available to pharmacists that may need support dealing with medication errors

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**Faculty**

**Julie Strickland, PharmD**  
Director of Continuing Education, PharmCon

**Faculty Disclosure**  
Julie Strickland has no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this program.

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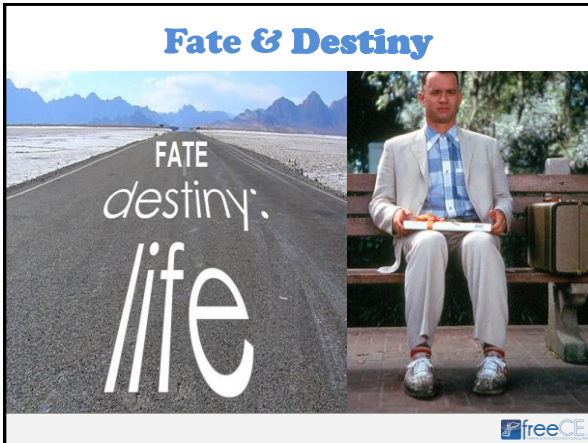
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## Objectives

- State the chain of events that lead to the making of an improper IV chemotherapy solution for Emily Jerry.
- Describe the legal and regulatory issues that impact the pharmacist in charge.
- Define Second Victims and describe what resources are available to pharmacists that may need support dealing with medication errors.

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**Emily Jerry**



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**Christopher Jerry**



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**Meet Eric Cropp**

- Introductory statement
  - Why wanted to be pharmacist
- Academic background
  - University of Toledo, BS Pharm 1993
- Professional interest
  - Chemotherapy / oncology
  - Hospital environment
  - Former President North Ohio Academy of Pharmacy, 2001 - 2002



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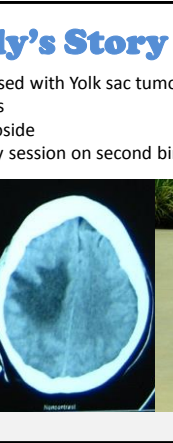
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**Emily's Story**

- At age 1 ½, diagnosed with Yolk sac tumor
- Excellent prognosis
- Treated with Etoposide
- Last chemotherapy session on second birthday



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### Emily's Story


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- At age 1 ½, diagnosed with Yolk sac tumor
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### The Pharmacy

OBJECTIVE # 1: State the chain of events that lead to the making of an improper IV chemotherapy solution for Emily Jerry.

- Sunday, weekend staff
- Pharmacy computer down for maintenance
- Backlog of physician orders
- Short staffed
- Stat order on Emily's chemotherapy
- No break





### Emily's final hours

- Fatal dose administered
  - Soon listless
  - Vomiting
  - “My head hurts”
- March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Life support





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### In Honor of Emily


- "A Closer Look at a Medication Error"
- [www.emilyjerryfoundation.org](http://www.emilyjerryfoundation.org)





## Emily Jerry foundation

emily's story
current endeavors
news
support the cause
partners
photos
contact



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### Audience Response Question

What precautions are in place to prevent this from happening?

- A pharmacy technician decided not to use a standard prepared bag of 0.9% sodium chloride solution.
- Instead, the pharmacy technician filled a plastic bag with a concentrated sodium chloride solution of 23.4%
- Pharmacist failed to detect the error.





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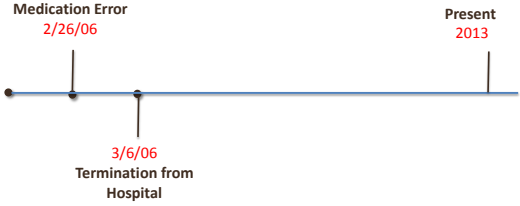



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### EVENT TIMELINE





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### Grieving





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### Firing

Immediately placed on leave  
Was told he would be supported by the hospital




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### EVENT TIMELINE – THE JERRYS

Medication Error 2/26/06

Board Hearing, License Revocation 4/20/07

3/6/06 Termination from Hospital

Seek reasons for death of Emily  
Hospital is sued  
Crusade for stricter standards  
Focuses on Eric Cropp

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### EVENT TIMELINE – ERIC CROPP 4/2007


Depression  
Eric consumed with guilt  
Seeks grief counseling, employment  
Board of Pharmacy hearing




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### April 20, 2007

Over a year after the Emily medication error  
No consumer or employer complaints  
Supporters of Eric issued wrong date of hearing  
Family and supporters of the Jerry family given excessive testimony time.



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**Letter to the Ohio Board of Pharmacy**

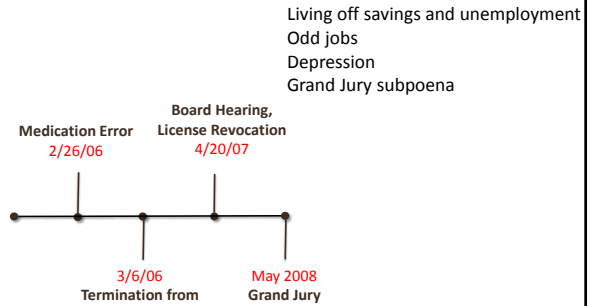
- Written by Kelly Jerry, mother of Emily



- Full letter on <http://www.flame.org/News2-JerryPlea.html>



**EVENT TIMELINE – ERIC CROPP 5/2008**




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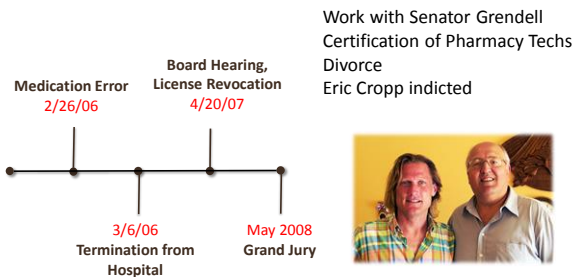


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**EVENT TIMELINE – THE JERRYS 5/2008**



**January 7, 2009**

Ohio Gov. signing "Emily's Law"




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**Date of Sentencing**  
**8/14/09**

Buffering... CLEVELAND.COM

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**Has a precedent been set?**

**Medication Error : Mistake? Crime? A mother's anguish...**

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**Kelly Jerry**

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- Six months County Detention
- Six months Home Detention
- 400 Hours Community Service
- Pay court cost of \$5,000

**Eric Cropp**  
From pharmacist to felon on 8/14/2009

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### The Jerry's

“The best years of your life are the ones in which you decide your problems are your own. You do not blame them on anyone or anything. You realize that you control your own destiny.”

- Albert Ellis

destiny

www.destinyisyour.com

### EVENT TIMELINE

Event	Date
Medication Error	2/26/06
Termination from Hospital	3/6/06
Board Hearing, License Revocation	4/20/07
May 2008 Grand Jury	May 2008
Date of Sentencing	8/14/09
Jail Sentence	8/14/09 - 2/16/10

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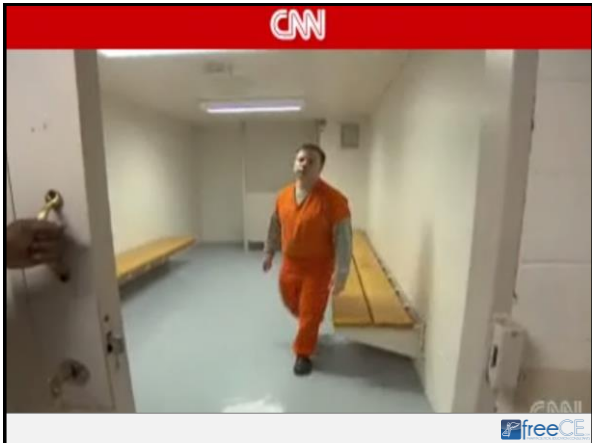
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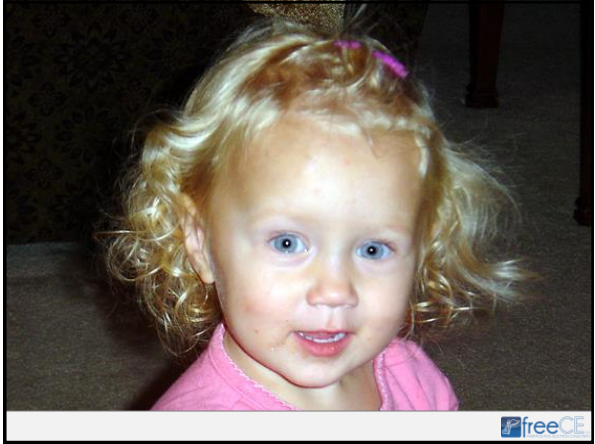
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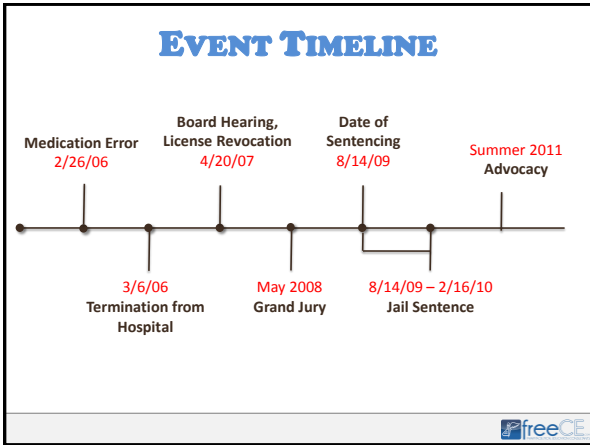
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### Second Victim

Objective #3: Define Second Victims and describe what resources are available to pharmacists that may need support dealing with medication errors.

- Caregivers and staff
- Negative Feelings
  - Survivor Guilt
- Suicide
- Support

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**Chris Jerry's Destiny**



- Personal healing
- Major life change
- Prevent future similar events
- Patient Safety Advocate



**Healing**

It takes one person to forgive,  
it takes two people to be reunited



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**Final Comments**

- Practice Environment
  - Next Eric?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Victims
- Patient Safety Advocacy
- Contacts
  - chris@emilyjerryfoundation.org
  - eric\_cropp72168@yahoo.com

*What is your Pharmacy destiny?*



**Notes**



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