



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, MD, MBA
Commissioner

November 14, 2018

Saleem Lawson

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification # 575144
Investigation Control # 2018-0121V**

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., which was enacted, in part, to ensure that all hospital and related health care services rendered in the State of New Jersey are of the highest quality. As defined at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2(b), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by basic life support personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMTs and EMT candidates. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A, EMTs: Training and Certification.

On October 15, 2018, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you were charged with possession of a controlled drug substance. Consistent with regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified as an EMT. Further, the investigator discovered that you were arrested on September 24, 2018 in Newark, New Jersey, under complaint number S-2018-015204 and charged with the following:

1. Use or possession of drug paraphernalia with intent to use, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2.
2. Failure to voluntarily deliver a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog to the nearest law enforcement officer, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10(c).

Specifically, the complaint obtained by investigators alleges that you were in possession of drug paraphernalia and a white powdery substance that was believed to be cocaine. The white substance is reported to be a controlled drug substance analog that you did not have a prescription for or obtain directly from a medical practitioner.

As you are aware, EMTs are placed in a position of trust by the public. EMTs must work in two-person teams to respond effectively to emergencies and must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes, and at other difficult field locations. To be effective, EMTs must exercise good judgment, trust each other and be trusted by police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be law-abiding and trustworthy.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT certification must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a), "the Commissioner, or his designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT and/or EMT Instructor certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare." Because you have been charged with serious offenses, the nature of which are indicative of poor judgment and lack of trustworthiness, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your certification as an EMT is immediately suspended and shall remain suspended until such time as the Department has completed its investigation into this matter and the charges against you have been resolved. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of, or perform the duties of an EMT in New Jersey during this period of suspension. Upon completion of the investigation and the resolution of your charges, the OEMS will notify you of what enforcement action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your EMT certification.**

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(f), certification cards are the property of the Department and shall be immediately surrendered upon demand. You are hereby directed to immediately surrender your EMT certification card(s) to the OEMS, either by sending via United States Postal Service First Class Mail, to the address on the first page of this Notice, or via physical delivery to Department of Health, OEMS, John Fitch Way, Market and Warren Streets, Trenton, NJ, 08611.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department of Health for emergency relief to contest this summary suspension. Your

request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number **2018-0121V** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360, Room 805
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
Attn: Ms. Tami Roach

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within thirty (30) days from the date of this Notice shall be deemed an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your EMT certification pending completion of its investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Timothy Seplaki at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Scot Phelps
Director
Emergency Medical Services

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND
CERTIFIED MAIL #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED