

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

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

August 11, 2022

Kevin Bohn

Re: Notice of Summary Suspension

EMS ID # 521989

Investigation Control # 22-0303

Dear Mr. Bohn:

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 to -27, 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 (BLS) personnel. In addition, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to -69 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-1.1 et. seq.)

On June 24, 2022, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you may have committed a crime. Consistent with OEMS regulatory authority and policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you have been certified as an EMT since September 16, 2003. Further, the investigator confirmed that in June of 2022, you were charged under Complaint No. S 2022 000146 in Cinnaminson, New Jersey with the following:

1. Falsifying or Tampering with Records, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-4(a).

Specifically, it is alleged that you were a police officer with the Cinnaminson Township Police Department (CTPD) when you accessed a restricted database through the CTPD to perform multiple queries on a female you met online. Furthermore, it is alleged that you created a false incident number in an attempt to cover up your intent and reason for accessing the restricted database. Additionally, according to court records, you have pleaded guilty to the aforementioned criminal charges.

As you are aware, EMTs must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions in difficult field locations for patients young and old, combative, and docile. In order to effectively care for all patients, EMTs must exercise good judgment and treat patients with dignity and respect. They are entrusted by the public to be there in times of need. Additionally, EMTs have access to patients' personal and health Information and are entrusted to protect the integrity of this information and not to use it for personal reasons. Thus, EMTs must trust each other and be trusted by police officers, firefighters, doctors, and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be law-abiding, be trusted to safeguard patient information, and be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, safe manner.

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, "[t]he Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Basic 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." The above charges demonstrate not only poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness but also a threat to patients in need of emergency medical care. Indeed, ensuring patient privacy and maintaining patient information in a confidential manner is part and parcel to the effective provision of emergency medical care. See N.J.A.C. 8:40-6.4; N.J.A.C. 8:40-3.9. Because your criminal charges involve tampering with official records for your own personal use, the Department finds that your actions and behaviors are incompatible with the duties of an EMT and that your continued certification as an EMT constitutes an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. Therefore, your certification as an EMT is immediately suspended. 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.

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter and monitor the progression of your criminal case. After OEMS completes its investigation and the charges against you have been resolved, you will be advised of what action, if any, the OEMS will take with respect to your EMT certification.

Pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40A-10.3, 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 **22-0303** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as 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 Daniel Kazar at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Gardner, Paramedic Acting Director Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Chief, Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, OEMS Zachary Raab, Investigator, OEMS NREMT File

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