

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PO BOX 360 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.nj.gov/health

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM Acting Commissioner

September 25, 2023

Jeanmarie Herrmann

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY

Lt. Governor

Re: Notice of Summary Suspension

EMS ID # 539225

Investigation Control # 23-0067

Dear Ms. Herrmann:

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, the Emergency Medical Services Act, 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 February 1, 2023, 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 by OEMS as an EMT since November 27, 2001. Further, the investigator confirmed that you were charged with the following under Complaint No. S 2023 000176 in Monroe Township, Gloucester County:

1. Computer Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-25(a).

Specifically, it is alleged that while you were employed as and acting in the capacity of an EMT supervisor for Monroe Township Emergency Medical Services (EMS), you

purposely or knowingly and without authorization, or in excess of authorization, accessed a co-worker's township email account and printed confidential documents.

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. EMTs also have access to patients' confidential personal and medical information. EMTs are expected to safeguard their patients' information and not misuse it. They are entrusted by the public to be there in times of need. Thus, EMTs must trust each other and be trusted by police officers, firefighters, doctors, and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be lawabiding and must be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, safe manner, and to protect their confidential information.

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 actions demonstrate that you not only have poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness but that you pose a threat to vulnerable patients. 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 the unauthorized access of confidential and protected information and accounts, 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 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 N.J.A.C. 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 investigation control number **23-0067** 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

Director

Office of Emergency Medical Services

Candaciffordner

c: Daniel Kazar, Chief, Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, OEMS
Victoria Holmes, Investigator, OEMS
Kirsten Posselt, Investigator, OEMS
Cooper EMS
NREMT
File

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