



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](http://www.nj.gov/health)

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

September 9, 2022

Sammy Weakland

**Re: Notice of Summary Suspension  
EMS ID # 536544  
Investigation Control # 22-0341**

Dear Mr. Weakland:

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 in 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 July 12, 2022, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you may have made verbal and physical threats while acting in the capacity of an EMT and while providing patient care on June 29, 2022. 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 are currently certified by the OEMS as an EMT and have been certified as an EMT since August 28, 2007. The investigator also confirmed that you were on the BLS unit that responded to render aid to the patient that was the subject of the notification on June 29, 2022. As part of the investigation, incident reports, patient care reports (PCR), Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) reports, and LEO Body Worn Camera (BWC) footage were obtained and reviewed.

BWC footage revealed an uncooperative, older patient who was under your care. While the patient was under your care, you verbally threatened and physically assaulted the patient. At one point, while caring for the patient, the hospital staff and LEO asked you to leave the patient care area.

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. To effectively care for all patients, EMTs must exercise good judgment, be trustworthy, and treat patients with dignity and respect. 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 law-abiding and must be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, dignified safe manner.

Based on 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 that vulnerable patients, such as older individuals, in need of emergency medical care are rendered treatment in a safe manner and are protected from possible abuse by the emergency medical providers entrusted to care for them is essential to the effective provision of emergency medical care. The threatening and assaultive behaviors and actions you exhibited on June 29, 2022, are incompatible with the duties of an EMT, and 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. 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. After OEMS completes its investigation, you will be advised of what action, if any, the OEMS will take concerning 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 the control number **22-0341** 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  
File

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