



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

April 29, 2021

Mr. Anthony Rizzo

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Certified New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician
EMS ID # 634046
Investigation Control # 2021-0098V**

Dear Mr. Rizzo:

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.)

While the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) was completing a site audit of a licensed basic life support agency on March 16, 2021, you were identified as one of the agency's certified EMT employees. The agency provided the OEMS investigators with the EMT certification card it had on file for you, which had an expiration date of December 31, 2020. When the agency called you for an updated EMT certification card, you sent the agency a copy of an EMT certification card with an expiration date of December 31, 2023. The OEMS Investigator attempted to verify your certification in the NJEMS Certification System. However, this revealed that your certification was issued on December 28, 2017, and expired on December 31, 2020. The agency contacted you again for additional information. In response, you advised that you received an email from the Department stating you were certified as an EMT, but could not locate the email.

On March 17, 2021, an OEMS investigator contacted you by telephone. During this conversation, you informed the OEMS investigator that you did not meet the requirements to recertify as an EMT in the State of New Jersey by December 31, 2020. You continued to state the the EMT certification card with the expiration date of December 31, 2023, was emailed to you; however, you are unsure who the email was from or if the email came from the Department. Additionally, the OEMS investigator informed you that the certification card you sent to the agency with an expiration date of December 31, 2023 was an older style certification. The Department no longer issued certification cards in that format. Again, asking where you got the certification card from, you continued to state the certification card was emailed to you, but you were unsure who sent it to you. Despite your assertions, the Department has determined that this certification card is fraudulent.

The OEMS investigators also reviewed the agency's electronic patient care reports (ePCRs) from January 1, 2021 to the present. The review revealed that you signed thirteen (13) ePCRs as the EMT rendering care to the patients, even though your EMT certification expired in December 2020.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2K-40, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-42, and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(a), an individual shall not act in the capacity of or portray themselves as an EMT-Basic unless certified by the Department. From its investigation, the Department finds that you are in violation of these statutes and the rule because you are not certified by the Department as an EMT, yet you were acting in the capacity of and referring to yourself as an EMT. Thus, the Department finds that you were impersonating an EMT in the State of New Jersey.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby **orders you, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1), to immediately CEASE AND DESIST** from making any further representations that you are a certified New Jersey EMT. You are further prohibited from acting in the capacity of an EMT. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender any and all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist may result in additional fines and penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1)(ii), this order to desist shall constitute a Final Agency Decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Investigator Zak Raab at (609) 633-7777 or via email at zachary.raab@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Terry Clancy, PhD, RN, NRP
Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Eric Hicken, Chief, Licensing Inspection and Enforcement, OEMS
Candace Gardner, Chief, Clinical Education & Licensure, OEMS
Zak Raab, Investigator, OEMS
NREMT
File

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