

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 358 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

www.nj.gov/health

CATHLEEN D. BENNETT Commissioner

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor
KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

Notice of Revocation of Nurse Aide Certification NA: 8526313 OPC No: 17-123

Dawn Alstatler

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under authority of federal law, imposes a requirement on state governments to ensure that nurse aides have the education and clinical skills necessary to care for residents of long term care facilities. See 42 C.F.R. Part 483. These regulations also require that each State maintain a nurse aide Registry, which, pursuant to 42 CFR 483.156(c)(1)(iv), must contain all substantiated findings by the State of resident mistreatment, abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident property by a certified nurse aide.

The Certification Program of the New Jersey State Department of Health (Department) was notified of the results of an investigation in which sufficient information that you have been accused of misappropriation, of the property of two (2) nursing home residents. This occurred on or about January 26, 2017, while you were employed as a certified nurse aide at Victoria Manor Nursing Center, in North Cape May, New Jersey.

Specifically, it is alleged that on January 26, 2017, you misappropriated the property of a vulnerable resident entrusted to your care when you took a credit card from a resident without his consent. The daughter of that resident reported that resident's credit card was missing and had an unauthorized charge of over \$2000 on it. As part of its investigation, the facility interviewed other residents on your assignment. One such resident reported that he had \$20 removed from his wallet, which he had placed in his bedside drawer, on January 24, 2017. In addition, when you were interviewed by the police and presented with the security camera video at one of the stores where the card was used, you then admitted to taking the card and using it. You were charged with credit card theft: N.J.S.A. 2C:21-6(c)(1) and unlawful taking: N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3(b), based upon this credible evidence.

On August 15, 2017, you were sent a Notice of right to Hearing prior to having a finding of misappropriation of resident property being placed next to your name on the New Jersey Nurse Aide Registry (Registry). This was the last one of three (3) such letters sent to you, at three (3) different addresses. At that time, you were notified that you had 30 days to request a hearing to contest the charge against you. This office received no such request within the prescribed time.

The first class mail letter was not returned to this office. A check of the Criminal Background Investigation Unit database and the Nurse Aide Registry on December 13, 2016, did not indicate a new address. If you moved, it is your responsibility to notify the Nurse Aide Registry and the Criminal Background Investigation Unit of your new address.

Therefore, in accordance with \$\frac{3}{4}2\$ CFR 483.156(c)(1)(iv), please be advised that a finding of misappropriation, will be placed next to your name on the Registry on September 29, 2017, and will remain on the Registry permanently.

Please surrender your nurse aide certificate and wallet card to:

Office of Program Compliance-Reporting 25 South Stockton Street, 2nd Floor PO Box 358 Trenton, NJ 08625-0358

The certificate and the wallet card are no longer valid and the status of your nurse aide certification is no revoked.

Please be advised that pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:39-43.1(a)1, only individuals who maintain a currently valid nurse aide certificate and are registered in good standing on the Registry are considered by the Department to be competent to work as a nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility. A certified nurse aide is no longer registered in good standing if a finding of abuse, neglect or misappropriation by the certified nurse aide is included on the registry. Therefore, if a finding of misappropriation of resident property remains next to your name on the Registry, you are prohibited from employment as a certified nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility.

In accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:39-43.7, you are entitled to submit a written statement contesting the findings noted above. This statement will be maintained on the Registry. If you wish to submit such a written statement, you must do so within 20 days of the date of this letter. Your letter should reference "Notice of Revocation of Nurse Aide Certificate: Contested Findings."

Please forward this statement to the Office of Program Compliance-Reporting along with your nurse aide certification and your nurse aide wallet card to the address listed above.

Sincerely,

Geле Rosenblum

Director

Office of Program Compliance

Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

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GR/bjg DATE: September 29, 2017 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED US FIRST CLASS MAIL