

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

Brett Rhein

RE:

Notice of Revocation of Nurse Aide Certification

NA 200007042 OPC No: 19-12574

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 C.F.R. 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 there was sufficient information that you misappropriated the property of vulnerable residents. This occurred while you were employed as a certified nurse aide at Crest Haven Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Cape May Court House, New Jersey.

Specifically, it is alleged you stole in excess of \$500 from each of the personal needs accounts of two residents. Further, on September 13, 2019, you were arrested by the Middle Township Police Department and charged with two counts of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-2b(2)(a) — Theft. Finally, on November 21, 2019, you pled guilty to N.J.S.A. 2C-20-3A — Theft by Unlawful Taking and were sentenced to probation, restitution, and forfeit public employment. Your actions were willful and constitute misappropriation of resident property in accordance with the federal definitions under 42 C.F.R. 483.5.

On November 18, 2019, you were sent a Right to Hearing letter via certified mail and first-class mail, to the address of record for your nurse aide certification. This notice advised you of the Department's intent to place a finding of misappropriation next to your name on the New Jersey Nurse Aide Registry (Registry), and to revoke your certification. At that time, you were notified that you had 30 days to request a hearing to contest the charges against you. This office received no such request within the prescribed time. If you moved, it is your responsibility to notify the Nurse Aide Registry and the Criminal Background Investigation Unit of your new address.

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Therefore, in accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156(c)(1)(iv), please be advised that a finding of misappropriation will be placed next to your name on the Registry on January 6, 2020 and will remain on the Registry permanently. Please also be advised that your certification is revoked.

Please surrender your nurse aide certificate and wallet card to:

Office of Program Compliance-Reporting 120 South Stockton Street, 3rd 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 N.J.A.C. 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, as long as a finding of misappropriation 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.

Lisa King, Regulatory Officer
Office of Program Compliance

Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

New Jersey Department of Health

LK/cb

DATE: February 13, 2020

UPS and US FIRST CLASS MAIL