



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the Matter of P.A., Correctional
Police Officer (S9988V), Department
of Corrections

CSC Docket No. 2019-153

Medical Review Panel

ISSUED: June 28, 2019 (EG)

P.A. appeals his rejection as a Correctional Police Officer¹ candidate by the Department of Corrections and its request to remove his name from the eligible list for Correctional Police Officer (S9988V) on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

This appeal was brought before the Medical Review Panel which rendered a report and recommendation. No exceptions were filed by the parties.

The report by the Medical Review Panel discusses all submitted evaluations. The Panel concluded that the test results and procedures and the behavioral record, when viewed in light of the Job Specification for Correctional Police Officer indicate that the candidate is psychologically unfit to perform effectively the duties of the position sought, and therefore, the action of the hiring authority should be upheld. Specifically, the Panel determined that the appellant displayed evidence of poor decision-making and significant difficulty with providing clear, consistent communication. Accordingly, the Panel recommended that the appellant be removed from the eligible list.

CONCLUSION

The Job Specification for Correctional Police Officer is the official job description for such State positions within the Civil Service system. According to

¹ Correction Officer Recruit has been renamed Correctional Police Officer.

the specification, a Correctional Police Officer exercises full police powers and acts as a peace officer at all times for the detection, apprehension, arrest, and conviction of offenders against the law. Additionally, a Correctional Police Officer is involved in providing appropriate care and custody of a designated group of inmates. These officers must strictly follow rules, regulations, policies and other operational procedures of that institution. Examples of work include: encouraging inmates toward complete social rehabilitation; patrolling assigned areas and reporting unusual incidents immediately; preventing disturbances and escapes; maintaining discipline in areas where there are groups of inmates; ensuring that institution equipment is maintained and kept clean; inspecting all places of possible egress by inmates; finding weapons on inmates or grounds; noting suspicious persons and conditions and taking appropriate actions; and performing investigations and preparing detailed and cohesive reports.

The specification notes the following as required skills and abilities needed to perform the job: the ability to understand, remember and carry out oral and written directions and to learn quickly from written and verbal explanations; the ability to analyze custodial problems, organize work and develop effective work methods; the ability to recognize significant conditions and take proper actions in accordance with prescribed rules; the ability to perform repetitive work without loss of equanimity, patience or courtesy; the ability to remain calm and decisive in emergency situations and to retain emotional stability; the ability to give clear, accurate and explicit directions; and the ability to prepare clear, accurate and informative reports of significant conditions and actions taken.

The Civil Service Commission has reviewed the job specification for this title and the duties and abilities encompassed therein and found that the psychological traits which were identified and supported by test procedures and the behavioral record relate adversely to the appellant's ability to effectively perform the duties of the title. Having considered the record, and the Medical Review Panel's report and recommendation issued thereon, and having made an independent evaluation of the same, the Civil Service Commission accepted and adopted the findings and conclusions as contained in the attached Medical Review Panel's report and recommendation.

ORDER

The Civil Service Commission finds that the appointing authority has met its burden of proof that P.A. is psychologically unfit to perform effectively the duties of Correctional Police Officer and, therefore, the Commission orders that his name be removed from the subject eligible list.

This is the final administrative determination in this matter. Any further review should be pursued in a judicial forum.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ON
THE 26TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019

Deirdre' L. Webster Cobb

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Chairperson
Civil Service Commission

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