

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

In the Matter of J.M.J., Correctional
Police Officer (S9988U), Department
of Corrections

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

CSC Docket No. 2019-1188

Medical Review Panel Appeal

ISSUED: September 16, 2019 (BS)

J.M.J., represented by Gregory S. Abramson, Esq., appeals her rejection as a Correctional Police Officer¹ candidate by the Department of Corrections and its request to remove her name from the eligible list for Correctional Police Officer (S9988U) on the basis of psychological unfitness to perform effectively the duties of the position.

This appeal was brought before the Medical Review Panel on July 10, 2019, which rendered its report and recommendation on July 10, 2019. 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. Accordingly, the Panel recommended that the applicant 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 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

¹ Pursuant to *N.J.S.A.* 11A:2-11.1, effective May 1, 2018, the title of Correction Officer Recruit has been retitled Correctional Police Officer.

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 same, the Civil Service Commission accepted and adopted the findings and conclusions as contained in the Medical Review Panel's report and recommendation.

ORDER

The Civil Service Commission finds that the appointing authority has met its burden of proof that J.M.J. is psychologically unfit to perform effectively the duties of a Correctional Police Officer and, therefore, the Commission orders that her 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 10TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019

Deirdre' L. Webster Cobb

Deirdré L. Webster Cobb, Chairperson
Civil Service Commission

Inquiries
and
Correspondence:

Christopher S. Myers
Director
Division of Appeals
and Regulatory Affairs
Civil Service Commission
Written Record Appeals Unit
PO Box 312
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0312

c: J.M.J.
Gregory S. Abramson, Esq.
Veronica Tingle
Kelly Glenn