



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

www.nj.gov/health

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

DR. RAYNARD E. WASHINGTON
Acting Commissioner

February 2, 2026

Darren Jacobs

**Re: Notice of Proposed Denial of Recognition
NY EMT Number: 491236
Investigation Control # 24-0598**

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

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 et seq., 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), N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to 20, and N.J.S.A. 26:2K-35 to 38, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS). 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) and license Paramedics. In furtherance of the aforementioned statutory objectives, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification, licensure, and professional conduct of EMTs and Paramedics, EMT and Paramedic candidates, and EMT-Instructors. (See N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.1 et seq., 8:40A-1.1 et seq., 8:41-1.1 et seq., and 8:41A-1.1 et seq.)

On December 2, 2024, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you may have deleted multiple patient care reports. Consistent with OEMS regulatory authority and policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified by the New York State Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services (NYDOEMS), as an EMT and have been certified since August 5, 2022. The OEMS records indicate that you have been working in the State of New Jersey since at least January 1, 2024.

During the investigation, the OEMS determined that while you were working for Cliffside Park EMS (CPEMS), seventeen (17) electronic patient care reports (ePCRs) were created and later deleted, in which you were listed as a crew member.

Of the seventeen (17) deleted ePCRs, sixteen (16) were for patients transported to the hospital, and one (1) was for a patient who refused medical attention and transport. An activity audit of all deleted ePCRs revealed that they were removed using your login and password, and you never reported to CFEMS any compromise of your account credentials. It is also important to note that deleting an ePCR from the CFEMS system involves a multi-step process where the individual deletes the chart by typing the word "DELETE." This process ensures that deleting an ePCR is a deliberate action, not an accident. Furthermore, there were two IP addresses used to access the ePCR system used by CFEMS. One of the IP addresses points to a device operated by CFEMS, while the other points to an unknown device in Yonkers, New York, where you resided at the time ePCRs were deleted.

On or about January 30, 2025, you were interviewed by Detectives from the Bergen County Prosecutors' Office. During that interview, you admitted to deleting the charts because you were tired and did not want to deal with them.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.3 states,

"(a) A person validly certified as an EMT-Basic by the NREMT, the State of New York or any member state of the Atlantic EMS Council (currently Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) shall have status as an EMT-Basic. No further testing shall be required, and the EMT-Basic certification card issued by the out-of-State certifying agency shall be valid for the purpose of proof of EMT-Basic certification. This section shall not be construed to permit a person to practice beyond his or her certifying state's scope of practice."

Therefore, your NYDOEMS EMT certification does allow you to operate as an EMT in New Jersey.

N.J.A.C. 8:40-3.6 states,

"(a) The provider shall develop a patient care report to be utilized each time a crewmember makes physical or verbal contact with a patient.

1. A separate patient care report shall be prepared for each patient transport in the same vehicle. One patient care report per person shall be completed. A separate patient care report shall be completed for each leg of a round trip transport.
2. The patient care report shall be signed by all the crewmembers.

- (c) If a patient refuses care, the refusal shall be documented on the patient care report and an attempt shall be made to obtain the signature of the patient (or guardian) on a "Refusal of Care" statement."

Destroying medical records not only violates the regulations promulgated by the Department, but it also places patient health and safety at risk, inhibits medical care by other providers, and denies patients the right to have complete medical records.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(b) states, "[t]he Commissioner, or his or her designee, may issue a formal written warning, impose a monetary penalty, place on probation, suspend, revoke and/or refuse to issue or renew the certification of any EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor for violation of any of the rules set forth in this chapter." This includes, but is not limited to:

10. Destruction of medical records, including but not limited to, patient care reports or other records or reports required by the Department.
23. Failure to comply with any part of this chapter, any applicable part of N.J.A.C. 8:40 or N.J.A.C. 8:41, or any applicable law, rule and/or regulation; and/or
24. Any other action deemed by the Department to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare."

The above actions demonstrate that you not only have poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness but also pose a threat to vulnerable patients. These behaviors and actions are incompatible with the duties of an EMT, and the Department finds that your continued recognition as an EMT constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby proposes to deny recognition of your NYDOEMS EMT certification as provided by N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.3(a). Accordingly, you will no longer have EMT status in the State of New Jersey.**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3, you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department of Health to contest this proposed denial of recognition. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number **24-0598** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision, thereby rendering this action a Final Agency Decision. If

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

Sincerely,



Candace Gardner, Paramedic
Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Deputy Director of Operations, OEMS
Zachary Raab, Supervisor of Investigations, OEMS
Angela Kurkowski, Investigator, CIU
Michael Linehan, District Chief, New York State Department of Health
William Bringas, Director, Cliffside Park EMS
TJ Griffin, Detective, Bergen County Prosecutor's Office
NREMT
File

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