State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PO BOX 359
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0359

MIKIE SHERRILL
*Governor*

www.nj.gov/health

DR. RAYNARD E. WASHINGTON
*Commissioner*

October 26, 2026

Alison N. Avelino
[redacted]

**Re: Notice of Summary Suspension of EMT and EMT-Instructor Certification**
**EMS ID Number: 587029**
**Investigation Control # 26-0558**

Dear Ms. Avelino:

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). 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). In furtherance of the aforementioned statutory objectives, the Department has adopted rules that govern the training, certification, licensure, and professional conduct of EMTs. See N.J.A.C. 8:40 and 8:40A.

On July 16, 2026, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you may have committed a crime. 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 OEMS as an EMT and have been certified as an EMT since August 31, 2010, and have also been certified as an EMT-Instructor since January 12, 2014. Further, the investigator confirmed that you were charged on March 17, 2026, with the following under Redacted pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §§ 20.21 County, New Jersey:

1. Redacted pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §§ 20.21

Specifically, it is alleged that you Redacted pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §§ 20.21

Redacted pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §§ 20.21

As the Department's investigation continued, it was determined that on August 8, 2026, a Grand Jury in Union County indicted you under indictment for Redacted pursuant to 28 C.F.R. §§ 20.21 .

As you are aware, EMTs and EMT-Instructors must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions in difficult field locations for patients young and old, combative, and docile. In order to effectively care for all patients, EMTs must exercise good judgment and treat patients with dignity and respect. They are entrusted by the public to be there in times of need. Thus, EMTs must trust each other and be trusted by police officers, firefighters, doctors, and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be law-abiding and must be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, safe manner.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT and EMT-Instructor status in New Jersey must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2, "[t]he Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Basic and/or EMT-Instructor certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious 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 that you also pose a threat to vulnerable patients. These behaviors and actions are incompatible with the duties of an EMT and EMT-Instructor, and the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT and EMT-Instructor constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your status as an EMT and EMT-Instructor is immediately suspended. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of, or perform the duties of, an EMT or EMT-Instructor in New Jersey during this period of suspension.**

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. After OEMS completes its investigation and the charges against you have been resolved, you will be advised of what action, if any, the OEMS will take with respect to your EMT and EMT-Instructor certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3, you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department of Health for emergency relief to contest this summary suspension. Your request for a hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number **26-0558** 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 emergency relief within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your EMT and EMT-Instructor status pending completion of its investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief.** If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Zachary Raab at (609) 633-7777 or 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
Thomas Livecchi, Regulatory Officer, OEMS
Christian Rios, Investigator, OEMS
Angela Krukowski, Investigator, CIU
Union County College
NREMT
File

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