



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

FRED M. JACOBS, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

November 13, 2007

Mr. Vincent Celia

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:**
EMT-Basic and
EMT-Paramedic Certification #397
Investigation Control # 07-C-035

Dear Mr. Celia:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (the Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7, et seq., which govern the provision of advanced life support services within the State of New Jersey and 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-2b, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by paramedical and ambulance services. These laws establish a scheme that permits certain individuals, once certified, to perform basic life support (BLS) and/or advanced life support (ALS) services. In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted administrative rules that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMT-Basics, EMT-Basic Instructors and EMT-Paramedics. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1, et seq. and N.J.A.C. 8:41A-1.1, et seq.

On October 29, 2007, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), through the New Jersey State Police website, discovered that you were charged with possession and distribution of child pornography. Further investigation revealed that you had been charged with the same through Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office.

On October 31, 2007, OEMS received written confirmation from the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office that you have been charged with two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Minor. The first count was for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(5)(a), commonly referred to as distribution of child pornography, a crime of the second

degree. The second count was for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(5)(b), commonly referred to as possession of child pornography, a crime of the second degree.

Although the nature of your involvement is still under investigation by OEMS, as the agency responsible for certifying EMT-Basics, EMT-Basic Instructors and EMT-Paramedics, it is this Department's obligation to ensure the health and safety of the public with whom you may come into contact. If there is any justifiable reason for this Department to believe that your continued certification as an EMT-Basic and an EMT-Paramedic poses a threat to the public health and safety, it is our obligation to initiate proceedings for the immediate suspension of that certification.

N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.2(a), states that, "The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Paramedic 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."

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a) states that, "The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT-Basic and/or EMT-Basic 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."

Because of the seriousness of the crimes with which you been charged and the need to protect the public from emergency medical services providers against who have been charged with endangering the welfare of children, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT-Basic constitutes an immediate and serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Therefore, please be advised that **your certification as an EMT-Basic and an EMT-Paramedic is immediately suspended**. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of or perform the duties of an EMT-Paramedic or an EMT-Basic in New Jersey during this period of suspension.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:41A-4.1(f) and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(f), certification cards are the property of the Department and shall be immediately surrendered upon demand. You are hereby directed to immediately surrender your EMT-Basic, EMT-Basic Instructor and EMT-Paramedic certification cards to OEMS, either by U.S. Mail to the address on the first page of this Notice or by personal delivery to OEMS at Capital Center, 50 E. State Street, 6th Floor, Trenton, N.J. You will be notified when OEMS has completed its investigation into this matter, at which time you will be advised what action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your EMT-Basic and EMT-Paramedic certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:41A-5.3(a) and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), you have the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services for an emergent hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest this summary suspension. If the summary suspension is upheld at the Office of Administrative Law, you have the right to apply for injunctive relief in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Your request for an emergent 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 07-C-035 on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Office of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 360, Room 805
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
Attn: Ms. Michele Stark

Finally, please note that failure to submit a request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision, thereby negating any further appeal rights. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Samuel Stewart, OEMS Regulatory Officer, at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Karen Halupke, R.N., M.Ed.
Director, Office of Emergency Medical Services

By: 
Samuel Stewart, Esq.
Regulatory Officer

- c: Jim Baca, MICU Program Director
Underwood Memorial Hospital
David Gruber, Senior Assistant Commissioner
Health Infrastructure Preparedness and Emergency Response
Joseph Tricarico, Assistant Commissioner
Health Infrastructure Preparedness and Emergency Response
Samuel Stewart, OEMS Regulatory Officer
Donald Roberts, OEMS
Jim Sweeney, OEMS
Michele Stark, OL&RA

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