



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

MARY E. O'DOWD, M.P.H.
Commissioner

March 17, 2014

Robert VanDeusen

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:**
EMT - Basic Certification # 578984
Investigation Control # 2014-0059

Dear Mr. VanDeusen:

The New Jersey Department of Health (the 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), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by basic life support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technician-Basics (EMT-B). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMT-B and EMT-B candidates. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A, Emergency Medical Technicians-Basics: Training and Certification.

On February 28, 2014, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you were charged with theft by unlawful taking. Consistent with regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified as an EMT-B and also received confirmation that you were arrested on February 27, 2014 and charged with the following under complaint number W2014-000080:

1. Theft by unlawful taking or exercising control over movable property, which is in violation of Title 2C:20-3(a);
2. Two counts of theft by deception, which is in violation of Title 2C:20-4(a);
3. Computer-related theft, which is in violation of Title 2C:20-25(c); and

4. Theft of identity through impersonation, which is in violation of Title 2C:21-17(a)(4).

The investigator also learned that the charges stem from your employment with Cardinal Ambulance, which was from December 2012 to September 2013, where you held the role of Director of Operations. During that time, it is alleged that you terminated a Cardinal Ambulance employee and, rather than discontinuing the employee's salary, diverted \$22,456.99 of the employee's salary into your personal banking account. It is also alleged that you gave yourself an unauthorized raise between March 2013 and May 2013, in the amount of \$4,150. In total, you were charged with stealing \$26,606.99.

As you are aware, EMT-Bs work in unsupervised, two person teams in order to respond effectively to emergencies. You should also be aware that neither member of the team works in a supervisory capacity. Rather, one team member drives the vehicle and the other is alone in back of the ambulance providing emergency medical care. As such, the nature of this work requires EMT-Bs to make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate pre-hospital interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes and at other difficult field locations. In order to be effective, EMT-Basics must unconditionally trust each other and be incontestably trusted by EMT-Paramedics, police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a), "the Commissioner, or his 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."

Because the crimes with which you have been charged are serious and the nature of the charges are indicative of poor judgment and lack of trustworthiness, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your certification as an EMT is immediately suspended and shall remain suspended until such time as the Department has completed its investigation into this matter. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of, or perform the duties of an EMT in New Jersey during this period of suspension.**

In accordance with 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 certification card(s) to the OEMS, either by sending via United States Postal Service First Class Mail, to the address on the first page of this Notice, or via physical delivery to Department of Health, OEMS, John Fitch Way, Market and Warren Streets, Trenton, NJ, 08611.

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. You will be notified when the OEMS has completed its investigation, at which time you will be advised of what action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your EMT certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department Health for a 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 may apply for injunctive relief in the Superior Court of New Jersey. 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 **2014-0059** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance
P.O. Box 360, Room 805
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
Attn: Ms. Tami Roach

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your EMT certification pending completion of an investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Donald Roberts, at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, M.A.S.
Acting Director
Emergency Medical Services

c. Christopher R. Rinn, Assistant Commissioner
Donald Roberts, OEMS
James Sweeney, OEMS
Tami Roach, OL&RC

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