



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

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

January 21, 2020

Colin Skeele

Re: **Notice of Proposed Revocation:
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification # 516790
Investigation Control # 2015-0086V**

Dear Mr. Skeele:

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 personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMTs and EMT candidates. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A, EMTs: Training and Certification.

On November 2, 2015, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received a notification that you were charged with the possession of child pornography. Consistent with its 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-Basic in New Jersey. Additionally, the investigator confirmed that on or about October 9, 2015, you were arrested and charged in Sussex County Superior Court under complaint numbers W-2015-000285-1922 and W-2015-000311-1922 with the following:

1. Endangering the welfare of a minor, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(a)(1);

2. Exhibiting an obscene film, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:34-3(b)(2);
3. Sexual assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(c)(3)(b);
4. Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(5)(a)(i);
and
5. Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(5)(6).

According to the police report obtained by the investigator, you were captain of a volunteer first aid squad and, while serving as captain, you engaged in sexual contact multiple times with a subordinate squad member who was under 18 years of age. In addition, you knowingly possessed and disseminated photographs of children engaged in sexual acts. You showed these pictures to the underage, subordinate squad member for the purpose of your own sexual gratification.

On November 18, 2015, OEMS summarily suspended your EMT certification pending the completion of its investigation into this matter and the resolution of your criminal charges.

Subsequently, on August 4, 2016, the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey charged you under case number 2:18-cr-00407 with the following federal crimes:

1. Two counts of Producing Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2251(a) and (c);
2. One count of Online Enticement of a Minor, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2422(b);
and
3. One count of Distributing Child Pornography, in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2252A(a)(2)(A).

The federal complaint alleged that, beginning in 2011, you used your job as a summer camp counselor to connect with boys on social media and requested they send you sexually explicit photographs of themselves. In one instance, you offered a boy \$100 for pictures. You later allegedly sent "hundreds of images of child pornography" to another minor. Federal law enforcement also found that between 2012 and 2014, you communicated online with individuals in the Philippines to purchase live child sexual abuse shows. Instant messaging records revealed you viewed and directed these abusive shows in real time and used an online fund transfer service to wire money to the abusers.

OEMS has now completed its investigation and it has learned the federal and state charges against you have reached a final disposition. On October 8, 2019, you pled guilty in federal court to one count of producing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2251(a). The U.S. District Judge accepted your plea and sentenced you to fifteen years in prison. The sentence also indicated you must register as a sex offender and cannot have contact with anyone under the age of 18. Regarding the state criminal charges, the OEMS investigation found that on November 13, 2019, you pled guilty to one count of second-degree sexual assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2(c)(3)(b). You are scheduled to be sentenced on January 24, 2020.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(b) provides that, "The 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 or EMT-Instructor for violation of any of the rules set forth in this chapter. This includes, but is not limited to:

12. Conviction of any crime;
13. Any other action deemed by the Department to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

As you are aware, EMTs 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 the back of the ambulance providing emergency medical care to the patient. The provision of emergency care requires an EMT to have close, hands-on contact with vulnerable patients ranging from infants to senior citizens. Indeed, EMTs are not afforded the option of picking and choosing their patients -- they must be ready and able to render care to all patients, regardless of age, when they respond to an emergency call. Even more, EMTs must exercise good judgment, trust each other and be trusted by the public, police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals. In short, to be effective, EMTs must be law-abiding and must be trusted to care for all patients in an appropriate, safe manner.

Your convictions demonstrate that you not only have poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness, but that you pose a threat to minor patients. Your criminal actions were of a predatory nature and you abused minors for your own gratification. Such behaviors and actions are incompatible with the duties of an EMT. In fact, pursuant to the terms of your federal sentence, you will be unable to provide emergency medical care to children because you are barred from having contact with minors. **Therefore, as a result of this investigation, it is the intention of the Department to revoke your EMT certification. You are prohibited from attending any New Jersey EMT programs to gain certification in the future.**

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-11 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(b), you may request a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest this Department's decision to revoke your EMT certification. 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. **As for your EMT certification, you are reminded that you remain under a summary suspension and, as a result, are PROHIBITED from acting in the capacity of an EMT.** If you wish to request a hearing, please include the control number **2015-0086V** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department
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 a hearing within 30 days from the date of this notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to revoke your EMT certification, thereby negating any further appeal rights and converting this action into a final agency decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Dr. Jo-Bea Sciarrotta, OEMS Compliance Officer, at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,



Christopher Neuwirth, MA, MEP, CBCP, CEM
Assistance Commissioner
PHILEP Division

CC: Scot Phelps, JD, MPH, Paramedic, Director, OEMS
Eric Hicken, OEMS
James Sweeney, OEMS
Tami Roach, OLRC

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