



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

December 29, 2020

Douglas Gimson

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:
EMT Certification (EMS ID # 597432)
Investigation Control #2020-0054V**

Dear Mr. Gimson:

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 to -26, 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 to -69, 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-1.1 et. seq.)

The Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received a notification on December 4, 2020 that you were criminally charged with invasion of privacy. 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 by the OEMS as an EMT and have been certified since December 2011. Further, the investigator confirmed that you were charged with the following under Complaint No. 1017 S 2020 000033 in the City of Lambertville, New Jersey as well as Complaint No. 1009 S 2020 000092 in the Municipality of Flemington Borough, New Jersey:

1. Invasion of privacy, in violation of N.J.A.C. 2C:14-9(a).
2. Invasion of privacy, in violation of N.J.A.C. 2C:14-9(b)(1) and (2).

Specifically, it is alleged that you stood outside a bathroom window of a First Aid Squad in Flemington and, using a go-pro camera, observed an individual using the restroom

without the individual's consent. Additionally, it is alleged that you photographed, filmed, videotaped, recorded, or otherwise reproduced the images of an individual whose intimate parts were exposed without consent on various dates in 2019 and 2020.

It is further alleged that in 2016 and 2017 you hidden a camera in the bathroom and shower areas of an Ambulance and Rescue Squad in Lambertville and photographed, filmed, videotaped, recorded, or otherwise reproduced the images of the undergarment-clad intimate parts of numerous individuals without their consent.

As you are aware, EMTs are placed in a position of trust by the general public. They must work in two-person teams to respond effectively to emergencies and must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes, and at other remote locations. The provision of emergency care requires an EMT to have close, hands-on contact with vulnerable patients ranging from infants to senior citizens. 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.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT certification must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a), "the Commissioner, or his designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT 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 you have been charged with serious crimes, the nature of which are not only indicative of poor judgment and lack of trustworthiness but also evidence that you pose a threat to vulnerable patients, 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. 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 the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter and monitor the progression of your criminal case. After OEMS completes its investigation and the charges lodged against you have been resolved, you will be advised of what action, if any, the OEMS will take with respect to your EMT certification.

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, 55 North Willow Street, Trenton, NJ, 08618.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), 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 **2020-0054V** 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 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 its investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Eric.Hicken@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Eric Hicken, CPM, MICP
Chief, Licensing, Inspections and Enforcement
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c. Candace Gardner, Chief, Clinical Education and Licensure

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