



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](http://www.nj.gov/health)

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

February 4, 2021

Ms. Jeanne Valdez  
a.k.a. Jeanne-Marie Valdez

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Certified New Jersey  
Emergency Medical Technician  
Investigation Control # 2020-0213V**

Dear Ms. Valdez:

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 to -27, 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.)

On November 6, 2020, an investigator with the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) conducted a field inspection of an ambulance during which you identified yourself as a crew member. During the inspection you told the investigator that you were a certified EMT in the State of New Jersey and that you completed an EMT initial education program in June 2020 that was held in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Additionally, you stated you had not received an EMT certification card in the mail from the OEMS. When the OEMS investigator attempted to verify your credential in the NJOEMS Certification System, no record or account was found for you. Furthermore, you stated you were certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). The OEMS Investigators found no record for you in the NREMT. You were also unable to provide the OEMS Investigator with a copy of a valid CPR certification approved by the Department.

On November 9, 2020, an OEMS investigator contacted you to discuss this matter further. In response, you stated that you misunderstood the process to become a certified EMT and that you were under the belief that when you completed your final exam during

the EMT initial education program you were certified. You also admitted to not taking the NREMT initial certification examination as well as not being certified by either the NREMT or the Department. And, while you were able to provide the OEMS Investigator with a copy of a CPR card that was issued on April 9, 2020, showing you were certified by the National CPR Foundation, this CPR certification is not a recognized or approved credential by the Department, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.3. Moreover, the OEMS investigator contacted the EMT initial education program that you claimed you took in June 2020, but the program had no record of your attendance.

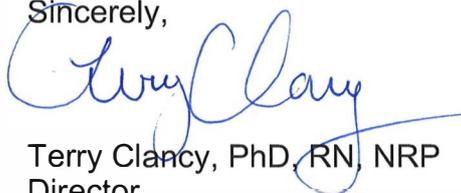
Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2K-40, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-42 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(a), an individual shall not act in the capacity of or portray themselves as an EMT-Basic unless certified by the Department. From its investigation, the Department finds that you are in violation of the statutes and rule because you are not certified by the Department as an EMT-Basic, yet you were acting in the capacity of and referring to yourself as an EMT-Basic. Thus, the Department finds that you were impersonating an EMT-Basic in the State of New Jersey.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby **orders you, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1), to immediately CEASE AND DESIST** from making any further representations that you are a certified New Jersey EMT. You are further prohibited from acting in the capacity of an EMT. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender any and all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials including EMT patches and badges that you may have to the Department. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist may result in additional fines and penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2).

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1)(ii), this order to desist shall constitute a Final Agency Decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Investigator Zak Raab at (609) 633-7777 or via email at [zachary.raab@doh.nj.gov](mailto:zachary.raab@doh.nj.gov).

Sincerely,



Terry Clancy, PhD, RN, NRP  
Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Eric Hicken, Chief, Licensing Inspection and Enforcement, OEMS  
Candace Gardner, Chief, Clinical Education & Licensure, OEMS  
Zak Raab, Investigator, OEMS  
NREMT  
File

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