



State of New Jersey  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
PO BOX 360  
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[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
*Commissioner*

February 4, 2025

Zahava Ben-Haim

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Licensed Ambulance Service  
Investigation Control # 24-0450**

Dear Ms. Ben-Haim:

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 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), N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to 20, and N.J.S.A. 26:2K-35 to 38, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS). 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) and Mobile Intensive Care Paramedics (MICPs). These laws establish a scheme that permit certain individuals, once certified or licensed, to perform basic life support and/or advanced life support services. In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department adopted regulations that govern the training, certification/licensure and professional conduct of EMTs and MICPs, N.J.A.C. 8:40A and N.J.A.C. 8:41A, as well as rules that govern the licensure and operations of BLS ambulances, N.J.A.C. 8:40.

On August 6, 2024, a Department inspector was conducting inspections in East Brunswick when it observed a vehicle displaying a placard that stated "Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicle" licensed by the Department and included a BLS agency license number belonging to Hatzolah Emergency Medical Services of Middlesex County. The placard was affixed to the inside of the lower driver's side windshield of a vehicle with New Jersey license plates. The placard further displayed the State seal as well as the Department's logo. The inspector immediately knew this was a fraudulent placard as the placard did not, in anyway, resemble inspection stickers issued by the Department for licensed and inspected EMS vehicles. Accordingly, the Department opened an investigation into this matter.

From its investigation, the Department learned that the vehicle displaying the fraudulent placard was leased by you. Thereafter, the Department confirmed that you are not licensed by the Department to own or operate a BLS ambulance service in New Jersey. The Department also confirmed that your vehicle is not registered to Hatzolah Emergency Medical Services of Middlesex County in its EMS licensing system. Even more, you are not certified by the Department as an EMT or licensed by the Department as a MICP. As such, you are not authorized, in any way, to provide emergency medical services in the State of New Jersey.

Based upon the foregoing, be advised that your use of the New Jersey State Seal and the Department's seal and logo are prohibited by law. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:2-4, the use and display of the Seal of the State of New Jersey by any person is prohibited unless such use and display is authorized by law. This statute further provides that the unauthorized use and display of the State seal is a disorderly person offense and is subject to a monetary penalty. Ibid.

Furthermore, N.J.S.A. 56:8-2.1 states that

It shall be an unlawful practice for any person to operate under a name or in a manner which wrongfully implies that such person is a branch of or associated with any department or agency of the Federal Government or of this State or any of its political subdivisions, or use any seal, insignia, envelope or other format which simulates that of any governmental department or agency.

Based upon the above, you are in violation of N.J.S.A. 52:2-4 because you are not authorized by law to use and display the State seal, yet the placard affixed to your vehicle displayed the State seal. You are also in violation of N.J.S.A. 56:8-2.1 because the placard affixed to your vehicle wrongly utilizes the Department's seal and logo and fraudulently represents that your vehicle is licensed and inspected by the Department. As such, you must immediately CEASE AND DESIST from using and displaying the Department and State's seals and names on your vehicle and remove the fraudulent placard from your vehicle.

Moreover, the Department finds that you were impersonating a BLS ambulance service, in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.4(a)1, which states:

Upon notice or discovery that a person, public or private institution, agency, entity, corporation or business concern is providing MAV and/or BLS ambulance services without having first obtained the required provider and vehicle licenses, . . . , the Commissioner or his or her designee may issue an order directing the operation of the unlicensed service to immediately cease and desist.

As stated above, your vehicle was displaying a fraudulent licensure placard indicating that your vehicle was licensed by the Department for the provision of emergency medical services, which it is not.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby **orders you, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.4, to immediately CEASE AND DESIST** from making any further representations that you own or operate a vehicle licensed by the Department. You are further prohibited from acting in the capacity of a BLS ambulance service. The Department reserves the right to pursue appropriate civil and/or criminal sanctions against you if you fail to take the requested action.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Daniel Kazar at (609) 633-7777 or at [Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candace Gardner".

Candace Gardner, Paramedic  
Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Chief, Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, OEMS  
Paul Jakuboski, Investigation, OEMS  
Zachary Raab, Investigator, OEMS  
Marlin Bullock, Investigator, CIU  
Fishel Erps, Primary Contact, Hatzolah Emergency Medical Services of  
Middlesex County  
NREMT  
File

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