



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PO BOX 358  
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

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

CATHLEEN D. BENNETT  
Commissioner

March 22, 2017

Debra L. Matela  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

RE: **Summary Suspension**  
Debra L. Matela  
Certification # NA 200011814

Enclosed is an Order of Summary Suspension, issued under authority of N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.5(b), based on a charge under N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1D for simple assault, in the fourth degree. Specifically, you were accused of kicking the wheelchair being utilized by the resident causing her to fall to the ground.

As of your receipt of this Order, your nurse aide certification is no longer valid. However, you have thirty (30) days from the date you receive this notice to appeal this summary suspension to the Commissioner of the Department of Health, as set forth in the enclosed Order. Please review the Order carefully, as failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of receipt of this Order shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your nurse aide certification pending completion of the investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief.

Should you have any questions regarding this Order, please Lisa King in the Office of Program Compliance at (609) 984-8128.

Sincerely,

John A. Calabria, Director  
Program Compliance and Health Care Financing  
Division of Certificate of Need & Licensing  
New Jersey Department of Health

JAC/sld  
c: J. Lindo

Rev. Feb 17



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IN THE MATTER OF:

Debra L. Matela  
Certified Nurse Aide  
Certification No. NA 200018144

)  
)

ORDER OF SUMMARY  
SUSPENSION OF NURSE AIDE

TO: Debra L. Matela

[Redacted address]

TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with the authority set forth in N.J.S.A. 26:1A-1 et seq., N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., and the provisions set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.5(b), the New Jersey Department of Health (hereinafter, "the Department") hereby

FINDS that you, Debra L. Matela, Certification No. NA 20001814, are a certified nurse aide within the State of New Jersey, which certification entitles you to obtain and/or maintain employment at nursing homes, other long term care health care facilities and in private residences in New Jersey, where your duties include the provision of direct, hand-to-hand care to elderly, often vulnerable, residents of said nursing homes and other long term care health care facilities; and the Department further

FINDS that credible evidence exists that you, while working as a certified nursing aide in Northbrook Behavioral Health Hospital in Blackwood, New Jersey, physically abused a vulnerable resident entrusted to your care. Specifically, it is alleged that on February 15, 2017, you kicked the wheelchair being utilized by the resident causing her to fall to the ground which resulted in injury to the resident. On February 26, 2017, you were charged with simple assault by purposefully, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury upon an institutionalized elderly person in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1D; and the Department further

FINDS that you pose an immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the public, including residents of long term care facilities, assisted living facilities and other licensed health care facilities or agencies, including home health agencies that provide in-home care, and that you be immediately suspended from eligibility for employment as a nurse aide, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.5(b).

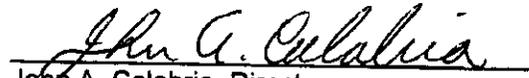
NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby administratively

ORDERED that your certification to work as a certified nurse aide in a long term care facility, assisted living facility and other licensed health care facility or agency, is hereby

**SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**, and your certification shall remain suspended until such time as the Department has completed its investigation into this matter; and it is further administratively

**ORDERED** that, in the interim, the Department will continue to investigate this matter. You will be notified when the Department has completed its investigation, at which time you will be advised of what action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your nurse aide certification.

DATED: March 22, 2017

  
John A. Calabria, Director  
Program Compliance & Health Care Financing  
Division of Certificate of Need & Licensing  
New Jersey Department of Health

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** in accordance with the provisions set forth in N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.5(b), you have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of this notice to request an expedited hearing to appeal this summary suspension to the Commissioner of the Department of Health. Any such hearing shall be conducted at the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law, and shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1-1 et seq. A request for an expedited hearing shall be made in writing and sent to:

Attention: OAL Expedited Hearing Requests  
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance - Room 805  
New Jersey State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 360  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of receipt of this Order shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your nurse aide certification pending completion of the investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Lisa King, at (609)-984-8128.

c: J. Lindo

Rev.  
Feb 17