

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

PO BOX 358 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358 www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

March 16, 2023

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RRR Dionelly Lopez

Re: Notice of Revocation for Nurse Aide Certification

Dionelly Lopez vs. New Jersey Department of Health Certification No: NA200028412 Agency Reference No. OPC 22-14395

Dear Ms. Lopez:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under authority of federal law, imposes a requirement on state governments to ensure that nurse aides have the education and clinical skills necessary to care for residents of long term care facilities. See 42 C.F.R. Part 483. These regulations also require that each State maintain a nurse aide Registry, which, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 483.156(c)(1)(iv), must contain all substantiated findings by the State of resident mistreatment, abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident property by a certified nurse aide.

The Certification Program of the New Jersey State Department of Health (Department) was notified of the results of an investigation in which there was sufficient information that you committed acts of misappropriation when you wrongfully obtained and used a credit card of a vulnerable elderly resident entrusted in your care.

The incident occurred in August of 2022 while you were employed as a home healthcare aide in Englewood, New Jersey. Specifically, it is alleged that you wrongfully obtained and used the American Express credit card of a person entrusted in your care. It was found that you purchased goods at the Shoprite in Englewood, in which there was a total of \$194.18 of charges incurred on the stolen credit card. Your actions were willful and constitute misappropriation in accordance with the federal definitions under 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.5.

The Department issued a Right to Hearing letter on February 2, 2023. You failed to request a hearing in the allotted 30 days from the date of the Right to Hearing notice. The Department has not received any evidence that you did not receive the notice.

Therefore, in accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156(c)(1)(iv), please be advised that a finding of abuse will be placed next to your name on the Registry and will remain on the Registry permanently. Please also be advised that your certification is revoked.

## Please surrender your nurse aide certificate and wallet card to:

Office of Program Compliance-Reporting 25 South Stockton Street, 3rd Floor Trenton, NJ 08625-0358

The certificate and the wallet card are no longer valid, and the status of your nurse aide certification is now revoked.

Please be advised that pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:39-43.1(a)(1), only individuals who maintain a currently valid nurse aide certificate and are registered in good standing on the Registry are considered by the Department to be competent to work as a certified nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility. A certified nurse aide is no longer registered in good standing if a finding of abuse, neglect or misappropriation by the certified nurse aide's name is included on the Registry. Therefore, you are prohibited from employment as a certified nurse aide when a finding of Abuse remains next to your name on the Registry.

In accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156 and <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:39-43.7, you are entitled to submit a written statement contesting the findings noted above. This statement will be maintained on the Registry. If you wish to submit such a written statement, you must do so within 20 days of the date of this letter. Your letter should reference "Notice of Revocation of Nurse Aide Certificate: Contested Findings."

Please forward this statement to the Office of Program Compliance-Reporting along with your nurse aide certification and your nurse aide wallet card to the address listed in this letter.

Sincerely.

Lisa King, Program Manager

Office of Program Compliance Division of

Certificate of Need and Licensing New Jersey Department of Health

LK:mt
Date: March 16, 2023
CERTIFIED MAIL:

Return Receipt Requested US FIRST CLASS MAIL