

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

THIS LETTER EXPLAINS YOUR RIGHTS READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY

TO: Monique Beaucejour

RE: NURSE AIDE REGISTRY
NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF NURSE
AIDE CERTIFICATION
Certification No.: NA 200023939

OPC No.: 19-12506

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. In addition, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.5(a), "[a] certificate issued to a nurse aide in accordance with this subchapter shall be revoked in the following cases:

1. Finding of abuse, neglect or misappropriation of property of a resident of a long-term care facility or assisted living residence, or of a patient, resident, or client of any other facility or agency licensed by the [New Jersey Department of Health]" (Department).

The Certification Program of the Department was notified of the results of an investigation in which there was sufficient information that you abused, neglected and mistreated a vulnerable resident. This occurred on August 13, 2019, while you were employed as a certified nurse aide at Waterview Center in Cedar Grove, New Jersey. Specifically, it is alleged that while you were caring for an 85-year-old resident, you left the resident alone sitting on the side of the bed and during this time she fell and struck her head. Although the resident had blood on her head, you failed to report the injury so that the resident could receive timely assessment and treatment. Instead, you returned the resident to bed. You then continued with your assignment in the dayroom without reporting the resident's injury. During the investigation into the incident, you admitted that you returned to the

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room, walking another resident into the room to the injured resident's bedside. This second resident, who was diagnosed with dementia, was known to have a history of pulling items onto the floor. You admitted that you wiped blood off of the resident's forehead and then pushed the second resident, who was leaning toward the first resident, back by placing your hand on her chest. At this time blood transferred to the second resident's shirt. You then left the room with the second resident and returned to the day room.

After some time had passed, you returned to the resident's room, staging the room to make it appear as if the second resident had caused the resident's fall by throwing objects on the floor. You admitted that you placed a wheelchair and television on the floor before calling the Unit Manager to the room and that you notified staff of the resident's injury as if you had just discovered it, concealing that you had witnessed the resident's earlier fall.

The facility transferred the first resident to the hospital, where she died of her injuries. The facility also transferred the second resident to the hospital for psychological evaluation due to staff's initial belief that she may have caused the first resident's injury because of the blood on her shirt and the staged objects. In sum, your abuse and neglect of these residents led to the death of the first resident and the unnecessary hospitalization and medication of the second resident.

As a result of this incident, the Cedar Grove Police Department issued a complaint charging you with reckless manslaughter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:11-4(b)(1), abandonment and neglect of an elderly person pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:24-8a, obstructing the administration of law or other governmental function pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1(a) and hindering apprehension or prosecution pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:29-3b(1).

On August 19, 2019, the Department issued an Order of Summary Suspension advising you that your certification to work as a certified nurse aide was no longer valid and that you had thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the order to request an expedited hearing. You did not request a hearing.

On October 31, 2019, the Department sent you a Notice of Right to Hearing, via certified mail and first-class mail, to the address of record for your nurse aide certification. The regular mail was not returned, and the Department received the signed certified mail card indicating receipt. This notice advised you of the Department's intent to place a finding of abuse, neglect and mistreatment next to your name on the New Jersey Nurse Aide Registry (Registry), and to revoke your certification. The Department also notified you that you had thirty (30) days to request a hearing to contest the charges against you. This office received no such request within the prescribed time. If you moved, it is your responsibility to notify the Nurse Aide Registry and the Criminal Background Investigation Unit of your new address.

Therefore, in accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156(c)(1)(iv), please be advised that a finding of abuse, neglect and mistreatment has been placed next to your name on the

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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 120 South Stockton Street, 3rd Floor PO Box 358 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 N.J.A.C. 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 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 is included on the registry. Therefore, as long as a finding of abuse remains next to your name on the Registry, you are prohibited from employment as a certified nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility.

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 above.

Sincerely,

Lisa King, Regulatory Officer Office of Program Compliance

Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

New Jersey Department of Health

LK:jm:dj

DATE: February 11, 2020

Regular and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Reguested