

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 358 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

Governor
SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

PHILIP D. MURPHY

September 14, 2022

Notice of Revocation

of Nurse Aide Certification

Natacha Esperience

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. Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 483.156 and N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.7, the State of New Jersey maintains a nurse aide registry (registry), which contains all substantiated findings by the State of resident abuse, resident neglect, or misappropriation of resident property by a certified nurse aide.

The Certification Program of the New Jersey Department of Health (Department) was notified of an investigation conducted by a representative of United Methodist Communities, in Pittman, concerning your care of a resident in which sufficient information was obtained to substantiate charges of abuse committed by you on October 25, 2020, while you were employed at the facility.

On April 25, 2022, the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law conducted a hearing to determine if you abused a resident while employed at the above facility. On June 21, 2022, Administrative Law Judge Elaine B. Frick issued an Initial Decision concluding that the Department had met its burden of proving that your actions rose to the level of abuse pursuant to 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 488.301 and <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 52:27G-2(a). As a result, the judge ordered that your appeal was denied and that the charge against you of abuse, neglect and mistreatment of a nursing home resident and revocation of your nurse aide certification was affirmed. On August 4, 2022, the Commissioner of the Department issued a Final Agency Decision adopting the administrative law judge's initial decision.

Therefore, in accordance with 42 <u>C.F.R.</u> 483.156(c)(iv), please be advised that the finding of abuse was included next to your name on the registry on August 11, 2022. The finding of abuse will remain on the registry <u>permanently</u>, and your nurse aide certification is revoked. 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 nurse aide in a licensed long-term care facility, assisted living facility and other licensed health care facility or agency. A certified nurse aide is no longer registered in good standing if a finding of abuse or neglect by the certified nurse aide is included on the registry. Therefore, you are prohibited from employment as a certified nurse aide and from caring for residents and patients in a licensed long-term care facility, assisted living facility or other licensed health care facility or agency.

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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 address below. In addition, please surrender your nurse aide certificate and nurse aide wallet card to:

Office of Program Compliance-Reporting 120 South Stockton Street P O Box 358 Trenton, NJ 08625-0358

The certificate and the wallet card are no longer valid.

Sincerely,

Lisa King, Program Manager
Office of Program Compliance

Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

LK/WCK

Certified Mail: Return Receipt Requested US First Class Mail