



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PO BOX 360

TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

POONAM ALAIGH, MD, MSHCPM, FACP
Acting Commissioner

June 15, 2010

Ronald Sward

Re: **Notice of Summary Suspension:
EMT-Basic Certification # 534309
Investigation Control # 10-C-053**

Dear Mr. Sward:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (the 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-2b, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by basic life support (BLS) personnel. The Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7, et seq., authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technician-Basics (EMT-Bs). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMT-Bs and EMT-B candidates. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1, et seq.

On June 14, 2010, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received a news article from the Star Ledger newspaper dated June 11, 2010. The article alleged that you were arrested and charged in Middlesex County Superior Court for aggravated sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. The OEMS opened an investigation in response to the information contained in the news article.

Further investigation revealed that on June 11, 2010 an arrest warrant was executed by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office in cooperation with the South Plainfield Police Department resulting in your arrest and incarceration in the Middlesex County detention facility in lieu of \$325,000 cash bail. The complaint alleges that for as many as eight (8) years leading up to your arrest, you sexually assaulted a minor male child, beginning at age eight (8). You have also been charged with an additional count

of aggravated sexual assault in connection with the sexual assault, earlier this year, of a seventeen (17) year old male.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a) states that, “The Commissioner, or his or her designee, may summarily suspend a person’s EMT-Basic and/or EMT-Instructor certification when, in his or her opinion, the continued certification of that person poses an immediate or serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare.”

Because of the seriousness of the crime with which you have been charged, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT-Basic constitutes an immediate and serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Therefore, your certification as an EMT-Basic is immediately suspended and shall remain suspended indefinitely. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of or perform the duties of an EMT-Basic in New Jersey during this period of suspension. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(f), certification cards are the property of the Department and shall be immediately surrendered upon demand. You are hereby directed to immediately surrender your EMT-Basic certification card(s) to the OEMS, either by U.S. mail to the address on the first page of this Notice or by physical delivery to Department of Health and Senior Services, OEMS, John Fitch Way, Market and Warren Streets, 6th Floor, Trenton, NJ, 08611. The OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. You will be notified when the OEMS has completed its investigation, at which time you will be advised what action(s), if any, will be taken with respect to your EMT-Basic certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), you have the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services for an emergent hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest this summary suspension. If the summary suspension is upheld at the Office of Administrative Law, you have the right to apply for injunctive relief in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Your request for an emergent hearing on this matter must be submitted in writing and must be accompanied by a response to the charges contained herein. Please include the control number 10-C-053 on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services
Office of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
P.O. Box 360, Room 805
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
Attn: Ms. Michele Stark

Finally, please note that failure to submit a request for a hearing within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department’s decision, thereby negating any further appeal rights.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Donald Roberts, at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Karen Halupke, RN, M.Ed.
Director
Emergency Medical Services

- c. David W. Gruber, Senior Assistant Commissioner
Donald Roberts, OEMS
Michael Mooney, OEMS
Michele Stark, OL&RA

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