



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360
www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner

June 20, 2024

Chaim Tusk

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Certified New Jersey
Emergency Medical Technician
EMS ID # 536554
Investigation Control # OEMS: 22-0654**

Dear Mr. Tusk:

The New Jersey Department of Health (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 to -27, 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 in N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2(b), healthcare services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 to -69, authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). In furtherance of the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification, and professional conduct of EMTs and EMT candidates. (See N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1 et seq.)

On November 17, 2022, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received a complaint that you impersonated a certified New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician to the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) for the purposes of fraudulently obtaining NREMT certification.

Consistent with its regulatory authority and policy, OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification. Upon opening the investigation, an OEMS investigator confirmed that your New Jersey EMT certification was revoked by the Department on February 27, 2020.

As part of its Investigation, OEMS Investigators contacted the NREMT. According to the NREMT, in December 2019, you submitted to NREMT a Re-Entry application and completed the NREMT disclosure statement process. In this disclosure to NREMT, you attested that no state or jurisdiction took disciplinary action against your

EMS or other medical professional license or privilege to practice. In fact, you presented to NREMT a copy of your New Jersey EMT Certification Card, with an expiration date of December 31, 2021, though it was revoked.

On November 8, 2021, you successfully completed an NREMT examination and were certified by the NREMT as an EMT under the pretense that you had no action taken against your state certification.

On November 22, 2022, you contacted OEMS by email, stating in part that “in October 2018, I affirmed that I was able to recertify my certification, not knowing that I was missing one of the required cores. Since then, I have kept hard copies of all my classes and courses. I have been an EMT since 2000 and never had any other issues with my certification.” In this correspondence, you failed to mention the revocation of your EMT certification by the OEMS or your obtaining NREMT certification by deception.

On July 6, 2023, you were interviewed by OEMS investigators at the Department and admitted that you failed to disclose your revocation when applying for the NREMT examination.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a) states, “No person shall impersonate, refer to himself or herself as, act in the capacity of or perform the duties of, an EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor unless he or she is certified or recognized by the department in accordance with the standards set forth in this chapter.

1. Upon notice or discovery that a person is impersonating, referring to himself or herself as, or acting in the capacity of an EMT-Basic without having first obtained the required EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor certification or recognition or after revocation of an EMT-Basic or EMT-Instructor certification previously issued by the Department, the Commissioner or his or her designee may issue an order directing that person to immediately cease and desist.

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2) states, in relevant part, “In addition to the issuance of an order to cease and desist, the Commissioner or his or her designee may:

- ii. Refuse to issue or renew any subsequent EMT-Basic and/or EMT-Instructor certifications.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department hereby orders you, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1), to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST** from making any further representations that you are a certified New Jersey EMT. You are further prohibited from acting in the capacity of a certified New Jersey EMT. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender any and all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials to the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist may result in additional fines and penalties as provided

for by law. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(1)(ii), this order to desist shall constitute a Final Agency Decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Daniel Kazar at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Daniel.Kazar@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Candace Gardner, Paramedic
Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Daniel Kazar, Chief, Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, OEMS
Logan Rafferty, Investigator, OEMS
Hatzolah EMS of Central Jersey
NREMT
File

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