

State of New Jersey DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER Lt. Governor JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

February 4, 2021

Mr. James Felix

Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Certified New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician EMS ID # 642513 Investigation Control # 2020-0236V

Dear Mr. Felix:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 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 at <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2H-2(b), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 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 <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 8:40A-1.1 et. seq.)

On November 8, 2020, a Department investigator with a program outside of the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) contacted OEMS to confirm that you were a certified EMT-Basic. The investigator was confirming this information because you told her during an investigation that you were a certified EMT-Basic. When an investigator for OEMS reviewed the OEMS Certification System to determine your status, he found an account for you with an EMS ID number of 642513. However, the transcript for this account shows that you attempted an EMT initial education program in 2019 and 2020, but you did not successfully complete either course. Furthermore, the OEMS Certification System does not show any certification.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2K-40, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-42 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(a), an individual shall not act in the capacity of or portray himself or herself as an EMT-Basic unless certified by the Department. From its investigation, the Department finds that you are in violation of the statutes and rule because you are not certified by the Department

as an EMT-Basic, yet you were representing yourself as an EMT-Basic. Thus, the Department finds that you were impersonating an EMT-Basic in the State of New Jersey.

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 an EMT. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender any and all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials including EMT patches and badges that you may have to the Department. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist may result in additional fines and penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2).

Pursuant to <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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 Investigator Zak Raab at (609) 633-7777 or via email at <u>zachary.raab@doh.nj.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Terry Clancy, PhD, RN NRP Director Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Eric Hicken, Chief, Licensing Inspection and Enforcement, OEMS Candace Gardner, Chief, Clinical Education & Licensure, OEMS Zak Raab, Investigator, OEMS NREMT File

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