

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PO BOX 360 TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

Governor www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

August 18, 2021

Jonathan Arredondo-Calle

PHILIP D. MURPHY

RE: Notice of Summary Suspension

EMS ID #607427

Investigation Control #2021-0048V

Dear Mr. Arredondo-Calle:

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 at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-2(b), health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by Basic Life Support 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 January 29, 2021, the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) received notification that you were charged with a crime. Consistent with OEMS regulatory authority and policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified by the OEMS as an EMT and have been certified as an EMT since June 26, 2014. Further, the investigator confirmed that you were charged with the following under Complaint No. 0716 S 2021 000026 in Nutley, New Jersey

1. Theft by unlawful taking or disposition in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3A.

Specifically, it is alleged that between May 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020, you stole more than \$75,000 from the Nutley Volunteer Emergency and Rescue Squad. Additionally, you were indicted by a Grand Jury, under indictment number 21-05-00698-I, on May 6, 2021 for the above-mentioned charges.

As you are aware, EMTs are placed in a position of trust by the general public. They must work in two person teams to respond effectively to emergencies and must make important medical assessments and carry out appropriate medical interventions at motor vehicle accidents, in people's homes, and at other difficult field locations. In order to be effective, EMTs must exercise good judgment, trust each other and be trusted by police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals. In short, EMTs must be law-abiding and trustworthy.

Based upon the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT certification must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2, "[t]he 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." The above alleged actions demonstrate poor judgment and a lack of trustworthiness and are incompatible with the duties of an EMT. As such, the Department finds that your continued certification as an EMT constitutes an immediate and serious threat to public health, safety, and welfare. **Therefore, your certification as an EMT is immediately suspended. You may not, under any circumstances, act in the capacity of, or perform the duties of an EMT in New Jersey during this period of suspension.**

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter and monitor the progression of your criminal case. After OEMS completes its investigation and the charges against you have been resolved, you will be advised of what action, if any, the OEMS will take with respect to your EMT certification.

In accordance with <u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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 certification card(s) to the OEMS, either by sending via United States Postal Service First Class Mail, to the address on the first page of this Notice, or via physical delivery to:

New Jersey Department of Health Office of Emergency Medical Services 55 North Willow Street Trenton, NJ, 08618

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3, you may appeal to the Commissioner of the Department of Health for emergency relief to contest this summary suspension. Your request for a 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 **2021-0048V** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance P.O. Box 360 Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

Failure to submit a written request for emergency relief within 30 days from the date of this Notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to summarily suspend your EMT certification pending completion of its investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Investigator Zak Raab at (609) 633-7777 or via email at zachary.raab@doh.nj.gov.

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
Zak Raab, Investigator, OEMS
File

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