



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner

October 8, 2024

Eric G. Viveiros

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist
Impersonating a Certified Emergency Medical Technician – Instructor
Investigation Control # 23-0644
EMS ID # 630210**

Dear Mr. Viveiros:

The New Jersey Department of Health (the Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., Health Care Facilities Planning Act, which was enacted, in part, to assure 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. In addition, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., Emergency Medical Services Act, authorizes the Department to certify Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). 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, EMT-Instructors, EMT candidates, and EMT-Instructor Aides. (See: N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1 et seq.).

On November 30, 2023, the OEMS received a complaint from an administrative officer with the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad (FPMFAS) claiming that you identified yourself as an EMT-Instructor and conducted three (3) EMT Refresher classes at the FPMFAS even though you are not a certified instructor.

Consistent with its regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation into this matter. Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigators confirmed that you are currently certified as an EMT. Specifically, you have been a certified EMT since July 6, 2017. However, OEMS investigators confirmed that you are not, nor have you ever been, certified as an EMT-Instructor in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-8.1.

As part of its investigation, the OEMS identified the classes listed below as directly related to the received complaint.

Class Type	Class ID	Class Date	Class Time	Class Location
EMT Refresher A	153326	October 15, 2023	8:00AM – 5:00PM	FPMFAS
EMT Refresher B	153335	October 22, 2023	8:00AM – 5:00PM	FPMFAS
EMT Refresher C	153351	October 29, 2023	8:00AM – 5:00PM	FPMFAS

Further investigation revealed that you applied for OEMS approval for these courses by using EMT-Instructor Lorrie Grazes' (LG) credentials in the New Jersey Education and Certification Platform at www.njems.us/admbls. The OEMS investigators confirmed that LG is currently certified as an EMT-Instructor. However, you were listed as the primary contact for the above classes.

On December 1, 2023, you were notified by OEMS Investigators via phone about the ongoing investigation and were requested to provide supporting documentation for the aforementioned classes in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-3.3(b). During the telephone conversation, you asserted that you did not conduct the refreshers mentioned above and that LG and EMT-Instructor Jesse Suttor (JS), were responsible for these refresher classes. At this point in the conversation, your demeanor became irate, and false accusations against the Department and OEMS were made. In response to these developments the OEMS investigator requested that you provide further details during a formal interview with OEMS investigators at the Department. However, you firmly stated your refusal to comply with any interview and/or investigation, stating "I don't care if the State takes my EMT certification".

On December 5, 2023, you were officially notified to attend an interview at the Department on December 12, 2023. The correspondence was sent to you via email, United States Postal Service (USPS) First Class Mail and USPS Certified Mail. The USPS reported a notice of certified mail was received at your residence on December 9, 2023. The parcel sent USPS First Class mail was not returned to the OEMS as undeliverable. Although the interview notice was delivered to you, you failed to appear.

On December 6, 2023, OEMS investigators interviewed LG and JS at the Department. The OEMS investigators confirmed that JS is currently certified as an EMT-Instructor. During the interviews, it was disclosed that LG and JS were employed by your company, *Healthcare Consulting & Education Group LLC*, serving as EMT-Instructors responsible for conducting EMT refresher classes. LG acknowledged that you had access to her administrative account in the NJ Education and Certification Platform, for the purposes of applying for EMT Refresher classes. LG explicitly stated that she did not use the NJ Education and Certification Platform to apply for the above classes and emphasized that she did not conduct the classes listed above. Additionally, JS stated that he did not conduct the above courses.

OEMS also interviewed individuals who took the above listed courses. Each individual who was interviewed stated that you were the instructor for the above courses.

Furthermore, OEMS investigators procured a text message dated December 1, 2023, that you transmitted to LG and JS. In this correspondence, you conveyed the following message:

"I spoke with [OEMS] from this day and told him that we had issues uploading the paperwork the three of us together. I told him we worked with Tori and Tori went in and made some adjustments. If you guys tell them that we conducted every class a 100% within regulations and went through Tori with any issues this will blow over. Let them know that all the classes were done in person with you two running the classes. I think they put on of our classes under the location of Florham Park when I had problems uploading it. So they're asking about a class we conducted in Florham Park. If we say we did not conduct a class in Florham Park, the classes that you did in October I believe that were

for life ride or somewhere will be revoked. So the best thing to do is just to say yes. You can conducted the classes in florin Park and this thing could all be over. If they keep going around with this we all have to go to Trenton and I am not taking time off from work to go down there."

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-8.1(a) and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a), an individual shall not act in the capacity of an EMT-Instructor unless certified by the Department. From its investigation, the Department finds that you are in violation of these rules because you are not certified by the Department as an EMT-Instructor, yet you were acting in that capacity. Thus, the Department finds that you were impersonating an EMT-Instructor 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 representing yourself as a New Jersey EMT-Instructor. You are further prohibited from acting in the capacity of an EMT-Instructor. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials, including EMT-Instructor patches and badges that you may have, to the Department. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist may result in fines and penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2).

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
Nicholas Seran, Investigator, OEMS
State of New Jersey, Office of the Attorney General
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