



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PO BOX 358
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0358

www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

Tequia Lester

7 Canal Street, Asbury Park, NJ 07705
[REDACTED]

RE: Notice of Revocation of
Nurse Aide Certification
NA 8618917
OPC No: 20-12869

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under authority of federal law, imposes a requirement on state governments to ensure that nurse aides have the education and clinical skills necessary to care for residents of long term care facilities. See 42 C.F.R. Part 483. These regulations also require that each State maintain a nurse aide Registry, which, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. 483.156(c)(1)(iv), must contain all substantiated findings by the State of resident mistreatment, abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident property by a certified nurse aide.

The Certification Program of the New Jersey State Department of Health (Department) was notified of the results of an investigation in which there was sufficient information that you misappropriated the property of vulnerable residents. This occurred while you were employed as a certified nurse aide at Care One in Wall, New Jersey.

Specifically, it is alleged you stole money from at least six residents. Further, on December 29, 2019, you were arrested by the Wall Township Police Department and charged with nine (9) counts of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3A – Theft by Unlawful Taking. Your actions were willful and constitute misappropriation of resident property in accordance with the federal definitions under 42 C.F.R. 483.5.

On January 16, 2020, you were sent a Right to Hearing letter via certified mail and first-class mail, to the address of record for your nurse aide certification. This notice advised you of the Department's intent to place a finding of misappropriation next to your name on the New Jersey Nurse Aide Registry (Registry), and to revoke your certification. At that time, you were notified that you had 30 days to request a hearing to contest the charges against you. This office received no such request within the prescribed time. If you moved, it is your responsibility to notify the Nurse Aide Registry and the Criminal Background Investigation Unit of your new address.

Therefore, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. 483.156(c)(1)(iv), please be advised that a finding of misappropriation will be placed next to your name on the Registry on February 26, 2020 and will remain on the Registry permanently. Please also be advised that your certification is revoked.

Your wallet card was surrendered to the Wall Township Police Department and the Office of Program Compliance is in possession of your wallet card. Please surrender your nurse aide certificate to the address listed below:

Office of Program Compliance-Reporting
120 South Stockton Street, 3rd Floor
PO Box 358
Trenton, NJ 08625-0358

The certificate and the wallet card are no longer valid and the status of your nurse aide certification is now revoked.

Please be advised that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.1(a)(1), only individuals who maintain a currently valid nurse aide certificate and are registered in good standing on the Registry are considered by the Department to be competent to work as a nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility. A certified nurse aide is no longer registered in good standing if a finding of abuse, neglect or misappropriation by the certified nurse aide is included on the registry. Therefore, as long as a finding of misappropriation remains next to your name on the Registry, you are prohibited from employment as a certified nurse aide in a licensed long term care facility.

In accordance with 42 C.F.R. 483.156 and N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.7, you are entitled to submit a written statement contesting the findings noted above. This statement will be maintained on the Registry. If you wish to submit such a written statement, you must do so within 20 days of the date of this letter. Your letter should reference "Notice of Revocation of Nurse Aide Certificate: Contested Findings."

Please forward this statement to the Office of Program Compliance-Reporting along with your nurse aide certification and your nurse aide wallet card to the address listed above.

Sincerely,



Lisa King, Regulatory Officer
Office of Program Compliance
Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing
New Jersey Department of Health

LK/cb
DATE: February 27, 2020
UPS and US FIRST CLASS MAIL