



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

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

CATHLEEN D. BENNETT
Acting Commissioner

December 8, 2015

Brian Ruzich

Re:

**Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating an
Emergency Medical Technician # 595294
Investigation Control # 2015-0092V**

Mr. Ruzich:

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 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-2b*, health care services include any pre-hospital care rendered by paramedical and ambulance services. Furthermore, *N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq. Emergency Medical Services Act* authorizes the Department to regulate Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). In accordance with the objectives set forth in the statutes, the Department has adopted regulations that govern the training, certification and professional conduct of EMTs. See: *N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1 et seq.*

The New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has received a complaint stating that you are portraying yourself as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a member of the New Jersey EMS Task Force. Consistent with regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are not currently certified as an EMT with the State of New Jersey. In addition, the investigator confirmed that on November 7, 2015 you were arrested and charged under W2015-002153 and S2015-002166 with the following:

1. Forgery, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C-21-1a;
2. Wrongful Impersonation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:21-17;
3. Impersonating a Public Servant pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:28-8A.

The report obtained by investigators stated on November 7, 2015 a motor vehicle stop was conducted by Woodbridge Police Department due to a cracked windshield. During the stop, the officer noticed a window placard bearing the New Jersey State Seal and read "Office of Emergency Management"- Field Operations- Official Business." When asked for your motor

vehicle credentials, you retrieved them from a badge holder type wallet which contained an Emergency Medical Technician badge and identification card. When you were questioned as to whether you were an EMT, you stated that you were not because your certification was revoked as a result of a criminal conviction. According to OEMS records, a request for a background check was sent to you in February 2015. To date, you have not responded to this request and the OEMS has not taken any action against you. In fact, investigators confirmed that you have never been certified by OEMS.

You then handed the wallet to the officer. Upon further investigation, the officer found an identification card that read "New Jersey EMS Task Force – Helicopter Rescue." When questioned, you also confirmed you were not a member of the EMS Task Force. You then confirmed you had forged and counterfeited the card.

After being taken into custody, you permitted officers to search both of your vehicles. They noted both vehicles had multiple emergency lights, as well as a siren box. During the search, officers found identification card with your name from "Armed Forces of the United States – Homeland Security". They found a placard from the Emergency Medical Services Unit of Somerset Regional Disaster Response Team stating that you were the EMS Captain. Finally, a "Permit To Carry A Handgun" from the State of New Jersey made out to another individual was also discovered. According to the police reports received by investigators, you admitted that all of the aforementioned identifications were fraudulent and counterfeit.

N.J.S.A. 26:2K-42b states that "A person shall not impersonate or refer to himself as an EMT unless the person is authorized to do so pursuant to this act."

N.J.S.A. 26:2K-44 states, in relevant part, that "A person who violates the provisions of this act is subject to a penalty of \$200 for the first offense and \$500 for each subsequent offense."

N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a) states, in relevant part, that "No person shall impersonate, refer to himself or herself as, act in the capacity of or perform the duties of, an EMT 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 without having first obtained the required EMT or EMT-Instructor certification or recognition, or after revocation of an EMT 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, that "In addition to the issuance of an order to cease and desist, the Commissioner or his or her designee may:

i. Impose a monetary penalty in the amount of \$200.00 per calendar day for each day that a person is found to have impersonated, referred to him or herself as, or acted in the capacity of, an EMT or EMT-Instructor;

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

Therefore, you are hereby ordered to immediately **CEASE AND DESIST any further representations that you are a certified EMT**. You are further prohibited from acting in the

capacity of an EMT in the State of New Jersey. Additionally, you are hereby ordered to immediately surrender any and all invalid and/or fraudulent certification credentials including EMT patches and badges to the Office of Emergency Medical Services at the address below.

The Department reserves the right to impose monetary penalties for the above referenced violations. Consistent with the above referenced authority, you are hereby assessed a **\$200.00** monetary penalty for acting in the capacity of an EMT in the State of New Jersey. Failure to abide by this order to cease and desist impersonating an EMT may result in additional fines and penalties as provided for by law. Payment of the fine must be made in the form of certified check or money order, made payable to "Treasurer – State of New Jersey", within thirty (30) days to:

OEMS - Investigations Bureau
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

This order to cease and desist shall constitute a Final Agency Decision. As such, pursuant to *New Jersey Court Rules 2:2-3* and *2:4-1*, you may appeal from this Final Agency Decision within thirty (30) days to the following authority:

New Jersey Superior Court-Appellate Division
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex
P.O. Box 006
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0006

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Jo-Bea Sciarrotta, OEMS Compliance Officer at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, MAS
Acting Director, Emergency Medical Services

c. Christopher Rinn, Assistant Commissioner
Tami Roach, OLRA
Deborah Paglianite, OEMS
James Sweeney, OEMS

SENT VIA REGULAR US MAIL AND
CERTIFIED MAIL #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED