



State of New Jersey

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

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

June 23, 2021

Thomas Hoffman

**Re: Order to Cease and Desist Impersonating a Certified Emergency Medical Technician – Instructor
Investigation Control # 2020-0299V
EMS ID # 500839**

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The New Jersey Department of Health (the 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 et seq., 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 Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel. In addition, the Emergency Medical Services Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2K-7 et seq., 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.

The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) supports and ensures access to quality continuing education programs for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) professionals. Initial and ongoing education and training for EMTs is vital to protecting the health of our communities. In New Jersey, EMS providers are required to obtain education in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A to maintain and continually develop their professional skills and competencies.

On August 10, 2020, the Department received a complaint regarding a currently certified EMT-Instructor. Specifically, the complaint alleged that the certified EMT-Instructor was conducting an EMT Refresher A class with improper instructor-to-student ratios, shortened class periods, delayed class times, and limited psychomotor skills and scenarios. Consistent with its regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this notification.

Upon opening the investigation into that EMT-Instructor, the OEMS obtained documentation for multiple classes. Relevant here, OEMS reviewed documentation from the following courses:

1. EMT Refresher class number 137971, registered for August 9, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Hunterdon Medical Center; and
2. EMT Refresher class number 137972, registered for August 15, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Hunterdon Medical Center.

After reviewing the class documents and student records, the OEMS found that you signed your name on the sign-in sheet as the EMT-Instructor of record. In fact, the information and documentation obtained during the investigation shows that you were the sole evaluator for the cognitive and psychomotor skills instruction and evaluation of the students in the courses listed above. However, the OEMS investigators confirmed that you are currently certified as a Paramedic but are not currently certified as an EMT-Instructor. OEMS records indicate your EMT-Instructor certification expired on December 31, 2015. Thus, you were acting as an EMT-Instructor without a certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-8.1(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 this rule 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 additional fines and penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4(a)(2).

You may request a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law to contest the Department's decision to issue this cease and desist notice. 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 **2020-0299V** 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 a hearing within 30 days from the date of this notice shall be interpreted as an acceptance of this Department's decision to issue this cease and desist notice, thereby, negating any further appeal rights and converting this action into a final agency decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (609) 633-7777 or via email at Candace.Gardner@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Candace Gardner, Paramedic
Chief, Clinical Education & Licensure
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: OEMS Staff
File

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