



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](http://www.nj.gov/health)

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, MD, MBA  
Commissioner

January 31, 2019

Jake Parichuk  
186 Filmore Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

**Re: Summary Suspension Notice**  
**EMT # 595998**  
**Investigation Control # 2018-1454R**

Dear Mr. Parichuk:

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 (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 June 25, 2018, you accessed the Department's Office of Emergency Medical Services' (OEMS) Certification Platform, through the internet at [www.njems.us](http://www.njems.us), for the purpose of recertifying your EMT certification. On your EMT recertification application, you were presented with the following affirmation statement:

I affirm that all of the above information is true and correct. I understand that any misrepresentation of fact may be grounds to deny or revoke my NJ EMS certification/endorsement/license. In addition, I hereby certify that I have successfully completed the recertification requirements as stated in the current New Jersey EMS Regulations. I understand that my recertification/re-endorsement documentation may be subject to a random audit by the Office of Emergency Medical Services, and if it is determined that I have falsely reported my legal status, the existence of a criminal background, information concerning any certification, endorsement or licensure status granted by any and/or all jurisdictions at any time, and/or recertification/re-endorsement documentation as outlined in NJ regulation,

my EMS certification/endorsement may be revoked. NOTE: ONLY NJ-OEMS APPROVED COURSES MAY BE USED FOR EMT RECERTIFICATION.

You checked "I agree" next to that question, creating a time and date stamp in the electronic record. By checking "I agree", you were permitted to submit your recertification application to OEMS.

After receiving your recertification application, OEMS recertified your EMT credential for three (3) years. Specifically, OEMS issued you an EMT certification card on June 26, 2018, with a new expiration date of June 30, 2021.

OEMS utilizes a system of random audits of recertification applicants to assure compliance with all Department of Health regulations governing recertification requirements. See N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1 et seq. For the June 2018 recertification cycle, the recertification cycle of your EMT credential, you were not selected to participate in the random audit process.

On December 20, 2018, OEMS received a complaint that you knowingly falsified your recertification application. Consistent with regulatory authority and OEMS policy, the OEMS opened an investigation in response to this complaint.

Upon opening the investigation, the OEMS investigator confirmed that you are currently certified as an EMT. In addition, the Department was made aware that you boasted, to multiple individuals, the fact that you were not selected as part of the random audit process, allowing your lack of recertification requirements to go unnoticed. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.5(a), in order for an EMT to gain recertification, he or she must:

1. Possess EMT and CPR certifications; and
2. Successfully complete approved continuing education units, consisting of 24 core credit hours and 24 elective credit hours.

From its investigation, OEMS was unable to establish that you possessed a valid CPR certification and successfully completed 24 elective credit hours at the time of your recertification. As such, OEMS finds that you failed to meet the requirements for EMT recertification, even though you affirmed that you had "successfully completed the recertification requirements" set forth in OEMS's rules at the time you applied for recertification. Accordingly, the Department finds that you fraudulently procured your EMT certification by attesting that you were in compliance with OEMS's EMT recertification requirements when, in fact, you were not.

As you are aware, EMTs work in unsupervised, two-person teams in order to respond effectively to emergencies. You should also be aware that neither member of the team works in a supervisory capacity. Rather, one team member drives the vehicle and the other is alone in the back of the ambulance providing emergency medical care to the patient. The provision of emergency care requires an EMT to have close, hands on

contact with vulnerable patients ranging from infants to senior citizens. Even more, EMTs are placed in a position of trust by the public, police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and other professionals in order to be effective.

Moreover, by failing to meet the requirements for EMT recertification and boasting about fraudulently procuring your EMT certification demonstrates that you lack the qualities that are necessary to be an effective EMT. In order to be effective, EMTs must exercise good judgement, trust each other and be trusted by police officers, fire fighters, doctors and other professionals. This falsification of records is inconsistent with these qualities as it is indicative of poor judgement and lack of trustworthiness.

Based on the foregoing, the Department has determined that your EMT certification must be **summarily suspended**. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.2(a), "the Commissioner, or his designee, may summarily suspend a person's EMT 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."

**Therefore, your certification as an EMT is immediately suspended and will remain suspended until OEMS completes its investigation into this matter and determines what action should be taken against your certification. 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.** Be further advised that if you act in the capacity of or perform duties of an EMT in New Jersey during this period of suspension, your actions will constitute impersonation of an EMT in violation of N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.4 and shall incur further penalties.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.1(f), certification cards are the property of the Department, and shall be immediately surrendered to Department staff upon demand. As such, you are hereby directed to immediately surrender your EMT certification card to OEMS, either by U.S. mail to the address in the first page of this Notice, or by physical delivery to New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, John Fitch Plaza Market & Warren Streets, Trenton, NJ 08625.

In the interim, the OEMS will continue to investigate this matter. You will be notified of further action needed on your part and/or when the OEMS has completed its investigation, in respect to your EMT certification.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.3(a), 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 **2018-1454R** on your correspondence, and forward your request to:

New Jersey Department of Health  
Office of Legal & Regulatory Compliance  
P.O. Box 360, Room 805

Trenton, NJ 08625-0360  
Attn: Ms. Tami Roach

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 summarily suspend your EMT certification pending completion of an investigation, thereby forfeiting all rights to emergency relief and converting this action into a final agency decision.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Dr. Jo-Bea Sciarrotta at (609) 633-7777.

Sincerely,



Scot Phelps, JD, MPH, Paramedic  
Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

c: Christopher Neuwirth, Assistant Commissioner  
Candace Gardner, OEMS  
Tami Roach, OLRC

SENT VIA REGULAR U.S. MAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL # 7012 2210 0000 7409 8722  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED