

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re: Emergency Suspension of the Certificates of
Angelo Simone, E.M.T., P.M.D.
Certificate Numbers: EMT 562244 & PMD 542816
Case Numbers: 2024-11388 & 2024-11372

ORDER OF EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATES

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD, State Surgeon General, ORDERS the emergency suspension of the certificates of Angelo Simone, E.M.T., P.M.D., (Mr. Simone) to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic in the State of Florida. Mr. Simone holds certificate numbers EMT 562244 and PMD 542816. Mr. Simone's address of record is confidential pursuant to section 119.071(4)(d)2.q., Florida Statutes (2023). The following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law support the emergency suspension of Mr. Simone's certificates to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic in the State of Florida.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department of Health (Department) is the state agency charged with regulating emergency medical services pursuant to chapters 20, 401, and 456, Florida Statutes (2023). Section 456.073(8), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend

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Mr. Simone's certificates to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic in accordance with section 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2023).

2. At all times material to this Order, Mr. Simone was certified to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic in the State of Florida, pursuant to chapter 401.

3. At all times material to this Order, Mr. Simone worked for Coastal Ambulance, an advanced and basic life support interfacility transportation provider in Brevard County.

4. On or about January 3, 2024, Mr. Simone was dispatched to assist in the transport of Patient L.E. from Rockledge Regional Medical Center to Advent Health Orlando.

5. Patient L.E. was experiencing internal bleeding from a chronic kidney issue and prior to her transport, received a dose of Dilaudid.¹ Patient L.E. felt "out of it" during her transport.

6. During the transport, Mr. Simone was alone with Patient L.E. in the back of the ambulance.

7. At some point during the ride, Mr. Simone unbuckled one of the

¹ Dilaudid is the brand name for hydromorphone, a powerful pain medication. Short term effects of hydromorphone include drowsiness and fatigue.

shoulder safety straps from Patient L.E. and leaned over with his face near her chest.

8. Mr. Simone placed his mouth on Patient L.E.'s breasts and sucked on her nipples.

9. Patient L.E. was in a daze and did not tell Mr. Simone to stop.

10. After the incident, Mr. Simone texted Patient L.E.'s phone and apologized if he made her uncomfortable.

11. Mr. Simone was interviewed by Department investigators about the allegations.

12. Mr. Simone admitted to sucking on Patient L.E.'s nipples and stated that he did so because she looked at him "a certain way" and was "into it" so he believed that she had consented to his conduct.

13. Mr. Simone told the investigator that he had given another patient a "breast massage" while placing her leads.

14. In the course of their practice, emergency medical technicians and paramedics must be able to provide appropriate emergency care and treatment to vulnerable patients. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics are often in close confines to their patients. Emergency medical

technicians and paramedics are placed in a position of trust and must have the good judgment and moral character to act professionally during every patient interaction. Emergency medical technicians and paramedics must refrain from engaging in conduct that could harm their patients.

15. Mr. Simone willfully abused his position as an emergency medical technician and paramedic by sexually violating a patient who was in need of medical care, under the influence of sedating drugs, and vulnerable to abuse. Mr. Simone's conduct of engaging in predatory sexual activity with a vulnerable patient because he believed she was "into it" demonstrates that Mr. Simone lacks the good judgment and moral character necessary to act professionally. Therefore, Mr. Simone's continued practice as a paramedic presents an immediate, serious danger to the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

16. Mr. Simone's apology to Patient L.E. indicates that Mr. Simone knew that his conduct was wrong and demonstrates a significant disregard for the laws and rules that govern emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Mr. Simone's admission that this was the second time he

assaulted a patient during a transport indicates that there is a significant likelihood that Mr. Simone's conduct will continue.

17. The Department considered various restrictions on Mr. Simone's certificates, including restricting Mr. Simone from treating female patients. However, given the nature of emergency medical services, this restriction is not practicable and would pose a great risk of public harm. Emergency medical services are provided to patients in need of acute care, where it is imperative that services are rendered without delay. There is often very little notice given when emergency care is needed, and available paramedics and emergency medical technicians are expected to provide care to any patients in need of emergency care. Therefore, such a restriction on Mr. Simone's certificates would prevent Mr. Simone from caring for female patients, meaning that another paramedic or emergency medical technician would need to respond, which would delay care to those patients.

18. Therefore, nothing less than the immediate suspension of Mr. Simone's certificate to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic would adequately protect the public.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact, the State Surgeon General concludes as follows:

1. The State Surgeon General has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to section 20.43, Florida Statutes (2023), and chapters 456 and 401 as set forth above.

2. Section 456.072(1)(v), Florida Statutes (2023), authorizes discipline, including suspension, for engaging or attempting to engage in sexual misconduct as defined and prohibited in section 456.063(1), Florida Statutes (2023).

3. Section 456.063(1) provides that “[s]exual misconduct in the practice of a health care profession means violation of the professional relationship through which the health care practitioner uses such relationship to engage or attempt to engage the patient or client, or an immediate family member, guardian, or representative of the patient or client in, or to induce or attempt to induce such person to engage in, verbal or physical sexual activity outside the scope of the professional practice of such health care

profession. Sexual misconduct in the practice of a health care profession is prohibited.”

4. Mr. Simone violated section 456.072(1)(v) by engaging in sexual misconduct as defined and prohibited in section 456.072(1)(v) by placing his mouth on Patient L.E.’s breast.

5. Section 120.60(6) authorizes the State Surgeon General to summarily suspend the certificates of an emergency medical technician and a paramedic upon a finding that the emergency medical technician and paramedic presents an immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare.

6. Mr. Simone’s continued practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the people of the State of Florida, and this summary procedure is fair under the circumstances to adequately protect the public.

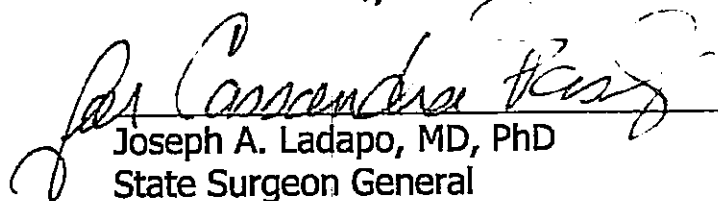
WHEREFORE, in accordance with section 120.60(6) it is **ORDERED**
THAT:

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1. The certificates of Angelo Simone, E.M.T., P.M.D., to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic, certificate numbers EMT 562244 and PMD 542816 are immediately suspended.

2. A proceeding seeking formal discipline of the certificates of Angelo Simone, E.M.T., P.M.D., to practice as an emergency medical technician and a paramedic in the State of Florida will be promptly instituted and acted upon in compliance with sections 120.569 and 120.60(6), Florida Statutes (2023).

DONE and ORDERED this 18th day of April, 2024.


Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

Pursuant to sections 120.60(6) and 120.68, Florida Statutes (2023), the Department's findings of immediate danger, necessity, and procedural fairness shall be judicially reviewable. Review proceedings are governed by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. Such proceedings are commenced by filing a Petition for Review, in accordance with Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.100, and accompanied by a filing fee prescribed by law with the District Court of Appeal, and providing a copy of that Petition to the Department of Health within thirty (30) days of the date this Order is filed.