

**S.C. Department of Public Health
Healthcare Quality Enforcement Report**

SUBJECT: Healthcare Quality Administrative Orders and Consent Orders for the period of September 1, 2024, to September 30, 2024.

Bureau	Facility, Service, Provider, or Equipment Type	Administrative Orders	Consent Orders	Assessed Penalties	Required Payment
Hospitals, Community Services, and Emergency Management	Emergency Medical Technicians	0	8	\$2,800; suspension; training and education	\$2,800
	Ambulance Agencies	0	3	\$14,900	\$12,900
	Community Residential Care Facility	0	1	\$5,600	\$5,600
TOTAL		0	12	\$23,300; suspension; training and education	\$21,300

HEALTHCARE QUALITY ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Bureau of Hospitals, Community Services, and Emergency Management

Facility/Provider Type	Total Number of Licensed Facilities/Providers
EMTs (Basic, Advanced, and Paramedic)	13,556

1. Savannah Auld – Certified EMT

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Auld. Department staff determined Auld committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by falsifying documentation required by the Department.

Enforcement: The Department notified Auld that it was considering enforcement action. The Department and Auld agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 23, 2024. Auld agreed to pay a \$300 monetary penalty within 90 days after execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

2. Stacy Joyner – Certified Paramedic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Joyner. Department staff determined Joyner committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by falsifying documentation required by the Department.

Enforcement: The Department notified Joyner that it was considering enforcement action. On July 29, 2024, the Department and Joyner met virtually for an enforcement conference. The Department and Joyner agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 16, 2024. Joyner agreed to successfully complete a Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) course within six months of execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

3. Jason Ronberg – Certified Paramedic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Ronberg. Department staff determined Ronberg committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by creating a substantial possibility that death or serious physical harm could result from his actions while instructing an EMT class.

Enforcement: On June 10, 2024, the Department notified Ronberg that it was considering enforcement action. On June 19, 2024, the Department and Ronberg met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Ronberg agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. Ronberg agreed to: a suspension of his EMT instructor certification until March 31,

2026; and successful completion of a 40-hours instructor methodology course and 20 hours of “supervised” teaching (to include a cardiac module).

Prior Orders: None.

4. Candace Richey – Certified Paramedic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Richey. Department staff determined Richey committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by: revealing confidences entrusted to her in the course of medical attendance; and breaching a section of the EMS Act.

Enforcement: On June 10, 2024, the Department notified Richey that it was considering enforcement action. On June 19, 2024, the Department and Richey met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Richey agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. Richey agreed to pay a \$300 monetary penalty within 30 days after execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

5. Autumn Westbrook – Certified EMT Basic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Westbrook. Department staff determined Westbrook committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by performing a skill above the level for which she was certified or performing skills that she was not trained to do.

Enforcement: Department notified Westbrook that it was considering enforcement action. On July 10, 2024, the Department and Westbrook met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Westbrook agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. Westbrook agreed to pay a \$300 monetary penalty within 30 days after execution of the Consent Order and to successfully complete a PEPL course within 12 months after execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

6. Elizabeth Pierson – Certified EMT Basic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Pierson. Department staff determined Pierson violated the EMS Act and Regulation by providing patient care within the scope of an EMT without obtaining proper certification from the Department.

Enforcement: On July 2, 2024, the Department notified Pierson that it was considering enforcement action. On July 17, 2024, the Department and Pierson met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Pierson agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. Pierson agreed to pay a \$1,000 monetary penalty within 30 days of execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

7. Erin Kim – Certified EMT Basic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Kim. Department staff determined Kim committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by: discontinuing care or abandoning a patient without the patient’s consent or without providing for the further administration of care by an equal or higher medical authority; and falsifying documentation required by the Department.

Enforcement: On July 2, 2024, the Department notified Kim that it was considering enforcement action. On July 17, 2024, the Department and Kim met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Kim agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. Kim agreed to pay a \$600 monetary penalty in three payments of \$200 over the 90 days following execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

8. Steven England – Certified EMT Basic

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated allegations of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving England. Department staff determined England committed misconduct, as defined by statute and regulation, by performing a skill above the level for which he was certified or trained.

Enforcement: On July 9, 2024, the Department notified England that it was considering enforcement action. On July 29, 2024, the Department and England met for an enforcement conference. The Department and England agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 10, 2024. England agreed to pay a \$300 monetary penalty within 30 days of execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

Facility/Provider Type	Total Number of Licensed Facilities/Providers
EMS Agencies	253

1. MedStar Medical Transport

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated a report of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving MedStar Medical Transport. Department staff determined MedStar Medical Transport violated the EMS Act by allowing an uncertified person to perform patient care.

Enforcement: On June 3, 2024, the Department notified MedStar Medical Transport that it was considering enforcement action. The Department and MedStar Medical Transport agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 16, 2024. MedStar Medical Transport agreed to the

assessment of a \$2,800 monetary penalty whereby it makes payment of \$1,800 within 30 days after execution of the Consent Order and the remaining \$1,000 is held in abeyance for a six-month period of substantial compliance with EMS regulation and the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

2. Guardian Transport

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated a report of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Guardian Transport. Department staff determined Guardian Transport violated the EMS Act by allowing an uncertified person to perform patient care.

Enforcement: On June 3, 2024, the Department notified Guardian Transport that it was considering enforcement action. The Department and Guardian Transport agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 24, 2024. Guardian Transport agreed to the assessment of a \$2,100 monetary penalty whereby it makes payment of \$1,100 within 30 days after execution of the Consent Order and the remaining \$1,000 is held in abeyance for a six-month period of substantial compliance with EMS regulation and the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

3. Gold Cross EMS, Inc.

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff investigated a report of certain statutory and regulatory violations involving Gold Cross. Department staff determined Gold Cross EMS violated the EMS Act by allowing two ambulances to take calls without permits.

Enforcement: On June 13, 2024, the Department notified Gold Cross EMS that it was considering enforcement action. On July 31, 2024, the Department and Gold Cross EMS met for an enforcement conference. The Department and Gold Cross EMS agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 24, 2024. Gold Cross EMS agreed to pay a \$10,000 monetary penalty within 30 days after execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.

Facility/Provider Type	Total Number of Licensed Facilities/Providers
Community Residential Care Facilities (CRCFs)	457

1. Lakefield Properties LLC d/b/a Cottonwood Villas – Licensed CRCF at 800 W. Church St., Bishopville, SC 29010

Inspection(s) and Violation(s): Department staff conducted investigations of the Facility on January 30, 2024, and April 12, 2024. As a result of these visits, Department staff observed and cited the Facility for violating Regulation 61-84 by:

- Failing to implement the Facility's policy regarding "Residents missing from the facility;"
- Failing to be able to appropriately respond to residents' needs during non-peak hours;
- Failing to notify the Department of a serious accident and/or incident within 24 hours of the accident and/or incident;
- Failing to maintain food that was palatable, properly prepared, and sufficient in quality to meet the daily nutritional needs of the residents;
- Failing to maintain all equipment and building components in good repair and operating condition; and
- Failing to keep the Facility grounds free of weeds, rubbish, and other potential breeding sources of vermin.

Enforcement: On June 21, 2024, the Department notified the Facility that it was considering enforcement action. On July 11, 2024, the parties met for an enforcement conference. The Department and the Facility agreed to resolve this matter through a Consent Order which was executed on September 24, 2024. The Facility agreed to: pay a \$5,600 monetary penalty within 30 days of execution of the Consent Order; initiate action to correct the violations that initiated the enforcement and ensure all violations are not repeated; and schedule and attend a compliance assistance meeting with the Department within 45 days of execution of the Consent Order.

Prior Orders: None.