

Tony Evers
Governor

Kirsten L. Johnson
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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September 19, 2023

(Via E-Mail and Certified Mail)

Caitlin Krieg
3657 Hubertus Road
Hubertus, WI 53033

Re: Reprimand of Caitlin Krieg #70105486

Dear Ms. Krieg:

The Department of Health Services (Department), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section, hereby reprimands you, Caitlin Krieg, License #70105486, for not maintaining current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification throughout the triennial licensing period, as required by Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.13(4m), for performing as an emergency medical services practitioner without current CPR certification, and for making a false statement on your 2023-2026 EMS Practitioner Paramedic Renewal Application.

Factual Basis for the Department's Action

On August 9, 2023, Germantown Fire Department notified the Department that you, Caitlin Krieg, had been operating as a paramedic practitioner without current CPR certification.

Facts related to performing services as an EMS practitioner without current CPR certification

On August 11, 2023, the Department requested from Germantown Fire Department a copy of all your CPR certifications they had on file from 2020 to 2023 and the number of calls you responded to without a current CPR certification.

Germantown Fire Department provided the Department a copy of your CPR certifications for 2023 that documented your CPR certification expired at the end of April 2023. The records provided by the Germantown Fire Department documented that you did not renew your CPR certification until August 9, 2023.

On September 13, 2023, Germantown Fire Department provided the Department with documentation listing at least 71 emergency responses you, Caitlin Krieg, had completed with Germantown Fire Department from May 1, 2023, to August 9, 2023, when you did not hold a current CPR certification.

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The most recent CPR certification you had previously provided to the Department expired at the end of April 2023. You did not submit current CPR certification to the Department after April 2023.

Interview with you confirmed that you responded as a paramedic practitioner without current CPR certification from May 1, 2023, until August 9, 2023.

Facts related to making a false statement on the 2023-2026 EMS Practitioner Paramedic Renewal Application

On June 6, 2023, you completed and submitted the 2023-2026 EMS Practitioner Paramedic Renewal Application. Part of that application involves attesting to statements and answering questions regarding your CPR certification. On the 2023-2026 EMS Practitioner Paramedic Renewal Application, you entered your initials provided to indicate you agree with the following statements:

I understand that Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.07(1)(d) states "The individual provides documentation of successful completion of a CPR course at the healthcare professional level within the last two years by a CPR organization specified under s. DHS 110.17(1)."

I have a current CPR certification that meets Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.07(1)(d) and Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.13(4m).

I understand that Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.54(2) states the Department may take an enforcement action if "The person made a false statement on an application for, or otherwise obtained a permit, certificate or license through fraud or error."

In addition, under the CPR Certification section, when asked, "Please enter your CPR expiration date" you entered, "04/2025".

You then dated the application "06/06/2023" and electronically signed the application by use of your password and submitted the application at 15:53 hours. The e-licensing system then auto generated your renewed practitioner license for 2023-2026 based on the information you provided in your application.

The department has determined that you attested that you had current CPR certification and that you understood making a false statement on your application was ground for enforcement action.

You were aware that you had no current CPR certification for more than thirty days before you submitted your renewal application. Therefore, you made a false statement on your renewal application when you stated you had current CPR certification.

Interview with you confirmed that you acknowledged you made a false statement on your 2023-2026 EMS Practitioner Paramedic Renewal Application, when you falsely stated your CPR certification expired at the end of April 2025.

Legal Authority for Department Action

Under Wis. Admin Code DHS § 110.56,

The department may reprimand a licensee, permit holder, or certificate holder if the department finds that the person has violated a requirement of this chapter or ch. 256, Stats., or engaged in conduct described in s. DHS 110.54. A reprimand documents the department's finding that the permittee, certificate holder or licensee has violated a requirement of this chapter or ch. 256, Stats., or has engaged in conduct described in s. DHS 110.54. A reprimand may be in the form of a letter issued to the person who is the subject of the reprimand...

Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.13(4m) provides:

An EMS professional shall demonstrate current competencies in CPR at the healthcare professional level by maintaining documentation of successful completion of a CPR course at the healthcare professional level by a CPR organization specified under s. DHS 110.17(1) throughout the triennial license period.

Wis. Admin. Code DHS §110.54 provides:

The department may take any enforcement action under ss. 110.55 to 110.58, which it determines is appropriate against a person subject to the requirements of this chapter and ss. 256.12 to 256.18, Stats., for any of the following reasons:

(2) The person made a false statement on an application for, or otherwise obtained a permit, certificate or license through fraud or error.

(4) The person violated any provision of ch. 256, Stats., or this chapter.

(13) The person failed to maintain certification in CPR for health care professionals by completing a course approved by the department and has performed as an emergency medical responder or emergency medical services practitioner.

Department Action

Based on the records submitted, it has been determined that while licensed as a paramedic, you did not maintain current CPR certification throughout the triennial licensing period, in violation of Wis. Admin. Code § 110.13(4m). The Department also determined that you provided patient care without current CPR certification in violation of Wis. Admin. Code § 110.54(13). Moreover, you made a false statement on your application for license renewal.

As an EMS professional, you are required to maintain current CPR certification throughout the triennial licensing period. Current CPR certification ensures that EMS professionals are up to date with the latest guidelines and techniques, reducing the risk of errors and improving patient safety during emergencies. Patients and their families trust EMS professionals to provide the best care possible. Current CPR certification helps maintain this trust by ensuring that EMS professionals are prepared to competently respond to emergencies. Not having current CPR certification can lead ineffective care, reduced competence, and lack of adherence to quality safety standards. As an EMS provider, maintaining current CPR certification is essential to providing the best possible care to patients in emergency situations.

You provided care to at least 71 patients while not having current CPR certification. CPR is a critical skill that can save lives in emergencies such as cardiac arrest. As an EMS provider, you often work in environments where patient's lives are at stake and having up to date CPR certification allows you to respond effectively when needed. Maintaining current CPR certification means you can provide immediate assistance to patients who experience sudden cardiac arrest, significantly increasing the chances of their survival. Your conduct shows that you provided patient care without current CPR certification which is contrary to the safe performance of an EMS professional.

An EMS provider must comply with Wisconsin statutes, administrative rules, and standards of practice for operating as an EMS professional and for providing appropriate care to patients. An EMS provider must be worthy of the trust and confidence the patients and community place in EMS professionals. You evidence a tendency to behave in ways that are contrary to the responsible and safe performance of an EMS professional by providing a false statement on your renewal application when you were aware you had no current CPR certification. Patients who call EMS for assistance depend on EMS practitioners to provide them with information regarding their condition that is accurate and appropriate. In addition, service directors, medical directors, and other members of the emergency health care team depend on EMS practitioners to be honest and truthful in their interactions regarding daily operations, patient care and reporting, and to be accountable for their actions.

In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code DHS §110.56, the Department will post the reprimand on the Department's website, will retain a copy of this letter of reprimand in your file, and may consider it in determining what further enforcement action may be appropriate if violations continue.

Pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code DHS § 110.56, the Department's issuance of this reprimand is a final decision of the Department and is not subject to an administrative hearing.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact me at 608-266-8853 or mark.mandler@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Caitlin Krieg #70105486

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Mandler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Mandler

EMS Section Manager

Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care

Wisconsin Department of Health Services