

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



Public Interest Division
Civil Enforcement Section

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sharon Williams Lewis
Senior Deputy Director
Health Regulation and Licensing Administration
Department of Health

THROUGH: Kimberly M. Johnson
Chief, Civil Enforcement Section

FROM: Jessica M. Micciolo
Assistant Attorney General

DATE: March 26, 2021

SUBJECT: In the Matter of Ikenna Uzomah, AA000060

This Section received the above-referenced request for the preparation of a Notice of Summary Action to Suspend License on February 17, 2021. The proposed notice is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica M. Micciolo, Assistant Attorney General, at (202) 741-0762.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION



IN THE MATTER OF:

IKENNA UZOMAH,

Respondent.

NOTICE OF SUMMARY ACTION TO SUSPEND LICENSE

To: Ikenna Uzomah
3109 Bulletin Way
Hyattsville, MD 20782

In accordance with the provisions of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, D.C. Code § 2-509(a), and the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Code § 3-1205.15(b), the Health Regulation and Licensing Administration (HRLA) gives you notice of the summary suspension of your license to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in the District of Columbia, License No. AA000060, under D.C. Code § 3-1205.15(a).

Your license is **summarily suspended** effective **immediately** upon receipt of this notice. If you wish to appeal this summary suspension of your license, you must file a written request for a hearing within 72 hours after service of this notice. Should you request a hearing, one will be held within 72 hours of the receipt of a timely request, and a decision will be rendered within 72 hours after the close of the hearing. The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to Suzanne Fenzel, Assistant General Counsel, Department of Health, Health Licensing Regulation Administration. The request may be submitted by email to Suzanne.Fenzel3@dc.gov or by mail to 899 North Capitol Street, N.E., Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20002. Ms. Williams can be reached at (202) 934-0046.

The District of Columbia is represented by the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in these proceedings. A copy of your hearing request and any pleading or other written communication addressed to the HLRA should also be delivered to Jessica M. Micciolo, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Civil Enforcement Section, 400 Sixth Street, N.W., Suite 10100, Washington, D.C. 20001. Ms. Micciolo can be reached at (202) 741-0762 or by email at Jessica.Micciolo@dc.gov.

You may appear personally at such a hearing and you may be represented by legal counsel. You have the right to produce witnesses and evidence on your behalf, to cross-examine witnesses against you, to examine evidence produced, and to have subpoenas issued on your behalf to require the production of witnesses and evidence.

All hearings are conducted before an administrative judge in the English language. If you or any witnesses to be called are deaf, have a hearing impediment or cannot readily understand or communicate the spoken English language, an application may be made to the administrative law judge for the appointment of a qualified interpreter.

The basis of the contemplated action is certain information received by the agency which, if proven to be true, justifies taking the proposed action under D.C. Code § 3-1205.15(a).

The charge upon which the summary suspension is based is set forth below.

Charge I: **Your conduct presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public, in violation of D.C. Code § 3-1205.15(a)(1)(D), for which the Board can take summary action to suspend your license under D.C. Code § 3-1205.15.**

On January 29, 2021, MedStar Health notified the District of Columbia Department of Health that it had terminated your employment because you were arrested on January 14, 2021 and later charged with theft, trespassing, possession with intent to distribute prescription drugs and possession of dangerous controlled substances.

In MedStar Health's investigation, you admitted that you left MedStar Georgetown University Hospital at the end of your shift on January 14, 2021, still possessing your med bag, which contained several full vials and a syringe of controlled substances. Although you were aware of the unused medicine waste policies and procedures at MedStar, you failed to properly waste these substances at the end of your shift, and you also failed to store your med bag in your locker before leaving the hospital. You admitted that you had not cleaned out your med bag in over a year.

You also admitted that you did not return the med bag and substances to the hospital and did not secure them once you realized you still possessed them after leaving the hospital. Instead, you placed the syringe of Dilaudid, a controlled

substance, on your car's console to remind you to waste it. You left the syringe and the vials of medicine in your unoccupied car for several hours. Ultimately, you were arrested and charged in the District Court of Maryland for Prince George's County after you were approached by police in a school parking lot.

You stated to investigators that throughout your career at MedStar, you had "probably" wasted medicine up to seven times and that you had left hospital grounds with unused medicine on four or five other occasions. Your unauthorized possession of controlled substances outside the workplace and lack of control over them, your failure to properly waste unused medicine, and your repeated carelessness in following hospital procedures and policies for the control of dangerous substances presents an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public.

A request for a hearing will not stay this summary suspension. Please note that under 17 DCMR § 4103.2, your failure to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, either in person or through counsel, or both, will not preclude the administrative law judge from proceeding in this matter.

March 29, 2021
DATE

Sharon Williams Lewis
Sharon Williams Lewis, DHA, RN-BC, CPM
Senior Deputy Director
Department of Health
Health Regulation and Licensing Administration