

Vol. 48 No. 6

For All Emergency Medical Clinicians

Infectious Disease Updates for EMS Clinicians

AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SER-**VICES** continue to transport patients with COVID-19 illness as well as immunosuppressed patients, both patients and EMS clinicians should continue to wear surgical masks on all calls for service. For patients with respiratory symptoms, or suspected/proven COVID-19 illness, EMS clinicians should remember to use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including: gloves, gown, eye protection, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator. MIEMSS will continue to post COVID-19 EMS Guidance documents online at https:// www.miemss.org/home/infectiousdiseases as updates occur.

■ Monkeypox. Monkeypox is a viral illness that typically starts with flu-like symptoms and progresses to a rash, characterized by fluid-filled lesions that resemble chickenpox or herpes, within three days. The rash typically starts on the face and spreads to other parts of the body. Viral spread typically requires close

contact with an infected person or animal (e.g., primates, small mammals), contaminated materials, or by respiratory droplets that can travel as far as six feet.

EMS clinicians should pay close attention to recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), which includes: gown, gloves, eye protection and NIOSH-approved N-95 (or equivalent) respirator. Read more here: https://www.miemss.org/home/Portals/0/Memos/Memo-Monkeypox-What-You-Need-to-Know-20220526. pdf?ver=2022-05-26-120520-063.

October 2022

EMS Transfer of Care Times

MIEMSS continues to closely monitor times on the transfer of care from EMS to hospital staff, and sends weekly reports to 34 Maryland hospitals and freestanding emergency departments. All of the Region III hospitals and many in Region IV and V receive these reports. Several hospitals have used these data to re-evaluate triage processes and focus their attention on improving transfer of

care times.

We encourage leaders to continue collaborative discussions with hospitals on strategies to transfer care from EMS to hospital staff in an efficient fashion. In addition, the Direct to Triage Protocol enables delivery of stable patients to the ED triage waiting area. Of note, it is important that the patient report be conveyed to nursing staff when using this protocol.

SAVE THE DATE

Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar 2023 March 8-11, 2023 Rocky Gap Conference Center

Details coming soon; online registration will be available later this fall.

EMS News Digest

■ Talbot EMS Introduces Ultrasound on County Ambulances (*The Star Democrat*). Talbot County Emergency Services, Emergency Medical Services Division, has a new tool in its toolbox – an ultrasound machine on each of the ambulances in its fleet. Talbot EMS approached the Talbot Paramedic Foundation about supporting this new and exciting pilot project for the state of Maryland, and they agreed. Talbot County paramedics started using the technology in the field in summer 2022. Read more here: <u>https://bit.ly/3SnRFEI</u>.

■ New Maryland Fire & EMS Department Ready to Begin Hiring Career Personnel (Carroll County Times via JEMS). Carroll County's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, which was officially established two years ago this month, is now ready to start hiring new career personnel, according to Director Michael Robinson Sr. "Over the past year, the [department] has made significant progress to create infrastructure, policies and procedures and is now poised to begin hiring personnel, incrementally, who will deploy to fire stations in the next several months," Robinson said in a staff report he presented to the Board of Carroll County Commissioners on October 6. Read more here: <u>https://bit.ly/3TBLEFa</u>.

■ Marylanders 5 and Older Now Eligible for Bivalent COVID-19 **Boosters So Maryland Families** Can Stay COVIDReady (Maryland Department of Health). The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) has announced that Marylanders 5 years old and older are now eligible to receive the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster shot, further expanding the state's COVIDReady campaign to encourage Marylanders to maximize their protection against COVID-19 this fall and winter. "Marylanders 5 to 11 years old who have gotten their last COVID-19 primary vaccine or any recommended booster shot at least two months ago are now eligible for the updated COVID-19 bivalent booster shot," said MDH Secretary Dennis R. Schrader. "We urge all Marylanders 5 years old and older to get the bivalent booster shot as soon as they can to be COVIDReady and together safely enjoy the colder months and upcoming holidays." Read more here: <u>https://bit.ly/3Tx2t4f</u>.

Protecting EMS Responders from Violence (US Fire Administration). Violence is the second most frequent cause of nonfatal injuries to emergency medical services (EMS) clinicians, according to 2020 data from National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) data tracking. Most of these injuries are caused by the patients EMS clinicians are treating. An EMS department in Austin, Texas, is implementing a training program that focuses on changing how violent patients are approached, including how to detect a possibly violent patient early in the incident. Read more here: https://bit. ly/3yPhdDp. ■

Submit recent EMS-related news and headlines for consideration to ptandy@miemss.org.

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New Report Outlines MIEMSS' Continued Efforts to Improve Customer Service

MIEMSS 2022 CUSTOMER SER-VICE REPORT is now available online at www.MIEMSS.org. The document offers a full analysis of the agency's customer service practices, improvements, and opportunities for growth through feedback provided via MIEMSS' Customer Service Survey.

MIEMSS tracks customer service-related performance for both external and internal customers. Through the Customer Service Survey, the majority of MIEMSS' customers continue to rate the Overall Satisfaction level of our customer service as "Very Satisfied". MIEMSS employees continually strive to provide friendly service in a courteous manner, which is reflected in the responses of "Very Satisfied" for Friendly and Courteous service. Department Directors throughout the agency prioritize customer service, as they are deemed responsible for ensuring that customers receive the best service and response possible, by providing staff with necessary training and regular performance reviews.

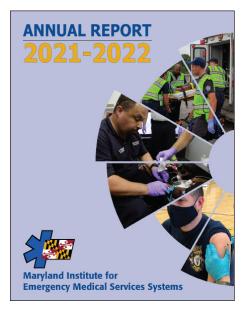
Technology also plays a key role in customer satisfaction, especially as it pertains to customers' ability to access services or information for themselves online. MIEMSS has continued to expand online services, which have proven particularly helpful for licensing and certification functions, as well as continuing education for EMS clinicians.

Over the past year, MIEMSS has also sought to expand access to education in new ways. For example, through support from a federal grant, the agency instituted an education stipend in FY 2022 to help defray the costs associated with the path toward EMT certification in Maryland.

Looking Ahead

MIEMSS departments will continue to focus on customer service in FY 2023. As the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic shifts to a long-term preparedness plan, MIEMSS will continue to respond and modify its strategies to ensure that the agency retains its high level of engagement and responsiveness with internal and external customers. Read the complete MIEMSS' 2022 Customer Service Report online at www.MIEMSS.org. ■

MIEMSS FY 2022 Annual Report Now Available



THE MIEMSS 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT is now available online at www.MIEMSS.org. In addition to MIEMSS' achievements in FY 2022, the report documents the activities of various EMS system stakeholders, including trauma and specialty centers, and features Maryland EMS, trauma, and burn statistics.

EMS Board Chairman Clay B. Stamp praises a state EMS system that is "a perfect combination of factors, including broad citizen support echoed by the elected officials at the state and local levels of government, which open doors to policy and resource support, coupled with highly dedicated career and volunteer emergency responders, physicians, nurses, and technicians that deliver a high level of care."

MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Ted Delbridge notes that, while the annual report conveys the successes of the past year, "with each graph, table, and section, however, there exist opportunities and a call to forward action for each of us."

Read the complete MIEMSS FY 2022 Annual Report online at www. MIEMSS.org. ■







The Maryland Resuscitation Academy (RA) is pleased to announce the dates of our Fall 2022 two-day Academy. This course is being offered Tuesday and Wednesday November 29 & 30, 2022 at Howard County's James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center in Marriottsville, MD. The Maryland RA is a two-day, intensive course dedicated to improving survival rates of patients suffering out of hospital cardiac arrest, and is suitable for Medical Directors, Fire/EMS Chiefs, EMS supervisors, EMS personnel of all levels, and hospital staffs across the state of Maryland and surrounding states and regions. Based on the curriculum of the world-renowned Resuscitation Academy in Seattle WA, the Maryland RA is co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS), The Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), and the Heart Rescue Project.

Through your attendance, you will increase your understanding of the interventions important to pre-hospital cardiac arrest survival and learn to implement ways to improve survival rates in your own community. The academy features acclaimed faculty who are accomplished in the field of cardiac arrest survival, with a focus on the science of CPR, the importance of time, the importance of measuring performance, the critical role of dispatch, pediatric cardiac arrest, and more. Additionally, the academy includes an extensive, in-depth, practical train-the-trainer session where all class participants will learn and become confident in delivering High Performance CPR. Each participant will also leave with a standardized curriculum (including instructor guide and standardized videos) to begin to teach this practice in your department.

The Academy is held both days from 8:30am–5:00pm and includes a continental breakfast and working lunch. Tuition is complimentary, and generously covered by Academy sponsors. Additional details will be provided following acceptance into the academy.

The deadline to apply is COB Friday, October 28th however registration may be closed sooner if all seats are filled. Go to <u>https://bit.ly/3SDOM2Q</u> for the application form and apply at your earliest convenience. Preference will be given to groups that can send two or more people in leadership, training, and field positions, capable of making system-wide improvements. Organizations outside Maryland are also encouraged to attend. For questions, feel free to email us at careshoward@gmail.com.

The Maryland RA Fall 2022 Two-day Resuscitation Academy





When:	Tuesday & Wednesday November 29 & 30, 2022
	8:30am-5:00pm
Where:	James N. Robey Howard County Public Safety Training Center
	2200 Scott Wheeler Drive Marriottsville, Maryland 21104
Who:	Medical Directors, EMS supervisors, Fire/EMS Chiefs, EMS personnel of all levels,
	and Emergency Department staff across the state of Maryland and surrounding
	regions

Through your attendance, you can expect to increase your understanding of the interventions important to pre-hospital cardiac arrest survival and learn to implement ways to track and improve survival rates in your own community.

Topics to be covered:

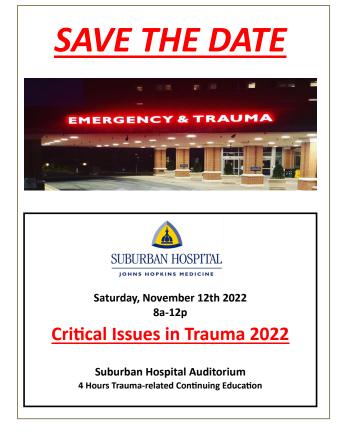
- Factors that determine cardiac arrest survival
- The science behind CPR and current resuscitation practices
- Best practices from regional EMS agencies
- Maintaining a cardiac arrest registry
- Providing cardiac arrest QA and QI to EMS field providers
- Telephone-assisted Dispatch CPR
- High-performance CPR train-the-trainer practical session
- Pediatric cardiac arrest care

Tuition is complimentary, and conference costs are generously covered. **The deadline to apply is COB Friday, October 28th however registration may be closed sooner if all seats are filled. Go to <u>https://bit.ly/3SDOM2Q</u> for the application form and apply at your earliest convenience. Preference will be given to groups that can send two or more people in leadership, training, and field positions, capable of making system-wide improvements. Organizations outside Maryland are also encouraged to attend. For questions, feel free to email us at <u>careshoward@gmail.com</u>.





Maryland EMS News



\sim SAVE THE DATE \sim

WINTERFEST EMS 2023

February 3-5, 2023 Easton, MD



There also is still time to access course content from the Winterfest EMS and Miltenberger 2022 combined virtual EMS conference – but hurry! Many of these courses will be removed from the Online Training Center on or about December 31, 2022. Learn more at https://www.emson-linetraining.org/.



Public Safety Campaign: Thanksgiving Weekend

November 23-27, 2022

THIS THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, millions will hit our nation's roads, eager to spend time with family and friends. It's one of the busiest travel times of the year, and unfortunately more people on the roadways means the potential for more vehicle crashes. In the interest of public safety, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has prepared campaign materials for use by law enforcement and public safety personnel focusing on subjects such as seat belt use, safe driving habits, and impaired driving. Download them here: <u>https://www. trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/others/thanksgiving-weekend</u>.



MARYLAND STARS OF LIFE AWARDS

Each year, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) celebrates EMS Week by honoring men and women across Maryland who have contributed to the EMS system. The eight categories for awards relate to specific incidents occurring from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. For further information, call 410-706-3994, or email awards@miemss.org.

MARYLAND STAR OF LIFE AWARD

This award may be given to an individual, multiple individuals, or teams on the same incident for an outstanding rescue under extreme circumstances by EMS personnel.

MARYLAND EMS CITIZEN AWARD

This award is intended for citizen rescuers who have demonstrated quick thinking, fast action, and heroism.

EMS CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a clinician who has made outstanding contributions in the past year to the continuous improvement of emergency medical services in Maryland (for example, in the areas of quality assurance, public or EMS education, prevention, delivery of EMS services, and new technology).

EMD CLINICIAN OF THE YEAR

This award is given for extraordinary efforts in assisting the public through dispatch in this vital portion of the Chain of Survival.

OUTSTANDING EMS PROGRAM

This award recognizes a program that offers an innovative approach to reducing death and disability. The program must be affiliated with an EMS system component, such as a hospital, educational facility, rescue squad, or EMS organization.

LEON W. HAYES AWARD FOR LIFETIME EXCELLENCE IN EMS

This award is given to an individual who has devoted a lifetime of dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system through his/her professional and personal life.

MARYLAND EMS-CHILDREN (EMS-C) AWARD

This award is given to an adult or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the care for children and for promoting Family Centered Care in a Maryland EMS program or hospital.

MARYLAND EMS-GERIATRIC (EMS-G) AWARD

This award is given to an individual or program that has demonstrated ongoing dedication and commitment to improving the EMS care of the elderly in Maryland.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2023 are DUE by FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023. SUBMIT THROUGH THE ONLINE LINK: <u>http://www.miemss.org/home/documents</u>

The Right Care When It Counts Maryland EMSC 2023 Program



The Maryland EMS for Children program is in search of children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated steps to take in an emergency or ways to be better prepared for an emergency. Actions taking place January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, are eligible for nomination. We will be recognizing

children and youth who acted so that others would receive "The Right Care When It Counts." Each nominee will receive a patch and certificate and be eligible for a state award at a ceremony during EMS Week 2023.

Questions? Email <u>awards@miemss.org</u>

Children and youth who have met one or more of the following criteria are eligible for Right Care Awards:

- 1. Activates the Emergency Response System by calling 9–1–1 in an emergency
- 2. Calls the Poison Control Center in an emergency (1-800-222-1222)
- 3. Provides family emergency phone numbers, address, and contacts to emergency responders
- 4. Knows and practices an emergency plan at home
- 5. Applies knowledge learned in a first aid class
- 6. Performs CPR and/or uses an AED effectively
- 7. Knows his or her medical history (allergies, medications, special needs, etc.) and shares this information with emergency care providers
- 8. Participates in fire and injury prevention education in the community
- 9. Prepares, with his or her family, to respond to a disaster
- 10. Provides emergency assistance in the community

Nominations for 2023 are DUE by March 31, 2023 (Friday) Submit through the online link: <u>http://www.miemss.org/home/documents</u>

EMS Compliance Update

THE EMS BOARD is authorized to take disciplinary action against clinicians who engage in prohibited conduct to safeguard the integrity of the EMS system. COMAR 30.02.04.01 lists conduct which is prohibited. Below is a sample of actions the EMS Board has taken since April 2022, as a result of prohibited conduct. For more information, contact Lisa Chervon, Chief of the MIEMSS Office of Integrity, at lchervon@miemss.org or (410) 706-2339. MIEMSS also maintains a searchable database of all decisions, which can be found online at https:// www.miemss.org/home/public, under Public Orders Report in the lefthand column.

■ IRC21-063 (EMT) May 11, 2022. On March 6, 2019, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of theft scheme \$1,500 to under \$25,000. The EMT was subsequently sentenced on June 5, 2019, to a one-year jail term, with all but six days suspended. The EMT was also issued unsupervised probation for a period of one month. Furthermore, upon subsequent application for EMT certification renewal on October 23, 2021, the EMT failed to disclose the aforementioned disposition. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was reprimanded and placed on probation for six years. ■ IRC22-001 (EMT) May 11, 2022. On December 22, 2021, the EMT was found guilty of seconddegree assault. The EMT was subsequently sentenced to three months in jail with the entire sentence suspended, as well as three years of supervised probation. The EMT was also ordered to attend mental health counseling. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was placed on probation concurrent with his criminal probation.

■ IRC22-006 (EMT) June 21, 2022. On December 16, 2021, the EMT was found guilty of imperson-

The EMS Board is authorized to take disciplinary action against clinicians who engage in prohibited conduct to safeguard the integrity of the EMS system. This is a sample of actions the EMS Board has taken since April 2022, as a result of prohibited conduct.

ating a police officer, and was issued unsupervised probation before judgment for a period of one year, and assigned 200 hours of community service, to be completed by December 17, 2022. The EMT's certification is currently on probation for the EMT's first certification cycle (04/13/21 - 06/30/24) related to incident #: IRC21-002, pursuant to a Disposition Agreement entered into by the EMS Board on May 21, 2021, as a result of a second-degree assault conviction on October 18, 2019. As a result of the above findings, the EMT's certification is suspended for 90 days from the date of this notice, during which time the EMT must obtain a psychological evaluation for fitness for duty and complete an anger management program approved by the EMS Board. The EMT will also remain on probation until June 30, 2025.

■ IRC22-002 (Paramedic) August 17, 2022. On January 6, 2022, a discrepancy in narcotics reporting was discovered, resulting from the Paramedic's failure to complete an electronic patient care report in a timely manner, as required by COMAR. As a result of this, as well as multiple previous incidents of failure to properly complete ePCRs, the jurisdiction temporarily suspended the Paramedic for a period of seven days, and issued a formal letter of reprimand. As a result of the above findings, the Paramedic's license is suspended for 30 days retroactively, with a 100% quality assurance review to be conducted within a period of 90 days. Additionally, the Paramedic shall meet with State EMS Medical Director Dr. Timothy Chizmar to discuss the matter, and will remain on probation for two years.

■ IRC22-010 (EMT) *August 17, 2022.* On September 10, 2019, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of second-degree assault, and was issued supervised probation before judgment for a period of one year. The EMT failed to disclose the aforementioned disposition on his application for provisional EMT reinstatement. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was reprimanded

See COMPLIANCE UPDATE page 12



Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration's (MDOT MVA)

Maryland Highway Safety Office

The MDOT MVA Highway Safety Office (MHSO) is dedicated to saving lives and working with many partners across the State to reduce the number of crashes each year. In addition, the MHSO looks for ways to reduce crash severity and ways to treat crash victims easier and faster.

Maryland aims to reduce the number of crashes, and the resulting deaths and injuries, to zero by 2030.

Keep Kids Safe this Halloween

Halloween is rapidly approaching. Many young Ghouls, Ninjas, Princesses, Witches, and Superheroes will be on the streets and sidewalks across Maryland looking for tasty treats. To ensure the safety of young trick-or-treaters this Halloween, please remember the following tips:

- Utilize extra caution when driving, especially in neighborhoods. Excited children can be unpredictable and may not be looking for vehicles.
- If you are attending a Halloween celebration that includes alcohol, ensure that you plan a sober ride home.
- Speak with children before heading out. Remind them that even on Halloween, safety rules *still* apply. They must watch for vehicles and look both ways before crossing the street.
- Encourage the use of face paint or makeup to accent a child's costume instead of a mask. Masks can restrict vision and make it more difficult for a child to spot potential dangers.
- If your child's costume is not already bright, consider the use of reflective tape on their costume or bag, small lights, or other items to make children more visible as they trick-or-treat.

Emphasis Area Team Meetings

Looking to become more involved in local road safety? MHSO welcomes participation from the EMS community for all emphasis areas. Mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings:

- Occupant Protection & Distracted Driving: November 17, 2022 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
- Pedestrian & Bicycle: December 1, 2022 (1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.)

Contact MHSO@mdot.maryland.gov to register

Expanding Maryland's Move Over Law

Originally passed in 2010, Maryland's Move Over Law required that drivers move over or slow down for emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, and CHART trucks who provide roadside assistance. In 2014, the law expanded to include tow truck drivers.

On October 1, 2022, the law expanded once again to include *all* vehicles while they are stopped, standing, or parked while displaying warning signals – including hazard lights, road flares, or other caution signals. If it is not safe or feasible to move over, motorists must slow down to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe for existing weather, road, and vehicular or pedestrian traffic conditions.



Violation of Maryland's Move Over Law is a misdemeanor carrying a \$110 fine and one point on your license. If the violation causes a crash, the fine is \$150 and three points. If there is a death or serious injury, the fine is \$750 and three points.

Maryland EMS News



2023 Shock Trauma Center HERO AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominate someone whose effort in saving a life exemplifies the very best of the elite Maryland EMS & Trauma System!

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2022

Download the nomination form by visiting: miemss.org

EACH YEAR, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center (RACSTC) Hero Award is presented to a group of individuals whose efforts in saving a lives exemplifies the very best of the elite Maryland EMS & Trauma System. Individuals honored include, but are not limited to, EMS clinicians, 9-1-1 operators, and RACSTC staff. Through December 1, 2022, RACSTC is seeking Hero Award nominations that spotlight stories of survival that can be attributed to response time, care received in the field, and treatment by RACSTC. Cases involving inter-hospital transfers will also be considered. The nomination form is available online at www.MIEMSS.org. Nominations may be faxed (410-328-3805) or emailed (crivers@umm.edu), or send to Attn: Cyndi Rivers, Resource Coordinator/EMS Liaison, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, 110 S. Paca Street, 3rd Floor, Room 44, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. All nominations must be received by December 1, 2022.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE...

(Continued from page 9)

for failure to disclose and placed on probation for one year.

■ IRC22-018 (Paramedic) August 17, 2022. On March 7, 2022, the Paramedic pled guilty to the crime of DUI: Gen Imp/Inc of Driving Safely - 2nd off. The Paramedic was sentenced to six months of probation, 15 days of house arrest, and two months of intensive supervision. The Paramedic was also ordered to complete an alcohol highway safety class, an ignition interlock program, a drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment program, and a CRN evaluation program. As a result of the above findings, the Paramedic was placed on probation through the rest of her certification cycle, with random alcohol/drug testing at her expense.

■ IRC22-023 (EMT) September 19, 2022. On September 24, 2021, the EMT was found guilty and sentenced to two years in jail, with all suspended, and two years of supervised probation for the crimes of Second Degree Assault and Carrying a Loaded Handgun on a Person. The EMT was also ordered to continue psychiatric therapy and attend an abuse intervention program. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was retroactively suspended for the 90-day period spanning from September 1, 2019, through November 30, 2021, and placed on probation through the EMT's next certification cycle, ending June 30, 2024. Additionally, a letter of reprimand was also issued to the EMT.

■ IRC22-030 (EMT) September 19, 2022. On April 1, 2022, the EMT was found guilty of seconddegree assault. The EMT was subsequently sentenced to 10 years in jail with the entire sentence suspended, as well as three years of supervised probation. The EMT was also ordered to attend and complete domestic violence counseling. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was reprimanded and placed on probation concurrent with the EMT's criminal probation.

■ IRC22-026 (EMT) September 19, 2022. On April 11, 2022, the EMT pled guilty to the crime of Distribution of Intimate/Sex Image, and was sentenced to supervised probation before judgment for a period of one year. As a result of the above findings, the EMT was reprimanded and placed on probation for one year from the date of this Final Decision. ■

