



April 14, 2021

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

### Revisions to Chapter 511-1-3 “Vital Records”

The Department of Public Health proposes the attached amendment to Rule 511-1-3-.23, “Permits for Disposition, Disinterment and Reinterment,” pursuant to its authority under Georgia Code Sections 31-2A-6 and 31-10-3.

The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to update the process to obtain permits for disinterment and reinterment to include an option for an application on a form prescribed by the State Registrar.

The proposed amendments have been posted to the Department’s website at <https://dph.georgia.gov/regulationsrule-making>. Interested persons may submit comments on these proposed revisions in writing addressed to:

Megan K. Andrews  
Director of Government Relations  
Georgia Department of Public Health  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
[megan.andrews@dph.ga.gov](mailto:megan.andrews@dph.ga.gov)

Written comments must be submitted on or before May 17, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency, there will not be a physical in-person meeting, however, oral comments may be presented via phone at a public meeting scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on May 10, 2021. To join the public meeting:

Join by computer:

- Meeting link: <https://gdph.webex.com/gdph/j.php?MTID=m230b5ad30ddfd12051b5c47a5c5279a3>
- Meeting number: 129 631 6634
- Password: r7fVbK3eS@8 (77382533 from phones)

Join by phone:

- +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll
- Access code: 129 631 6634

The Commissioner of Public Health will consider the proposed rules for adoption on or about May 18, 2021, to become effective on or about June 17, 2021.



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Megan K. Andrews  
Director of Government Relations  
Georgia Department of Public Health

**RULES OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 511-1-3  
Vital Records**

**511-1-3-.23 Permits for Disposition, Disinterment and Reinterment.**

(1) Permits for Disposition of Human Remains.

- (a) The local registrar shall make arrangements to ensure that disposition permits may be issued 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For this purpose, the local registrar may appoint local persons or entities, including hospitals, hospices, and funeral homes, to serve as deputy local registrars for the limited purpose of issuing disposition permits in accordance with this Rule.
- (b) A disposition permit shall not be issued until the cause of death has been certified by a person authorized to do so under DPH Rule [511-1-3-.19\(5\)](#); authorization has been given by the decedent's attending physician; or, with regard to a body subject to inquiry under Title 45, Chapter 16, Article 2, approval has been given by the county coroner or medical examiner.

(2) Permits for Disinterment and Reinterment.

- (a) The local registrar shall issue a permit for disinterment and reinterment of a dead body or fetus, including interred cremains, upon receipt of proper application on a form prescribed by the State Registrar, or upon receipt of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction directing such disinterment.
- (b) The local registrar may issue one permit for disinterment and reinterment of all remains in a mass disinterment provided that, insofar as possible, the remains of each body shall be identified and the place of disinterment and reinterment specified.
- (c) A permit for disinterment and reinterment shall be permission for disinterment, transportation, and reinterment. When disinterment and reinterment are in the same cemetery, a permit shall not be required.