

CERTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE BRAD RAFFENSPERGER

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 50-13-3, 50-13-4 and 50-13-6, I do hereby certify that the attached emergency rule is a correct copy as promulgated and adopted on the 26th day of January, 2022.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
& TRAUMA

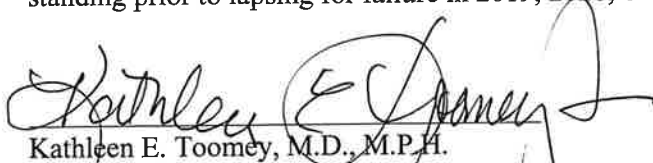
Filed: January 26, 2022

The Department has adopted the attached Emergency Rule 511-9-2-0.5 containing Rule 511-9-2-0.5-12 entitled "Temporary Licenses and License Reinstatements for Emergency Medical Services Personnel for COVID-19 Response" this 26th day of January 2022. The emergency rule shall be effective as of January 28, 2022, and shall continue until May 27, 2022, as specified in subsection (b) of Section 4 of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act.


This action is taken pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-51 and 50-13-4(b).

Justification for Emergency Rule:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(b), in response to the continued COVID-19 public health crisis and the need to maintain an adequate workforce of Emergency Medical Services Personnel, the Department of Public Health seeks to increase the number of persons able to function as medics in Georgia, as defined in DPH Rule 511-9-2-.02. This emergency rule allows for persons licensed in another member state of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice ("Compact") to gain temporary licensure in Georgia, thereby allowing them to quickly enter the Georgia EMS workforce. This emergency rule also allows for persons previously licensed by the Department of Public Health as a Medic whose license was in good standing prior to lapsing for failure in 2019, 2020, or 2021, to have their license reinstated.


Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Public Health

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of January, 2022.


(Signature of Notary Public)



**RULES OF THE
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**CHAPTER 511-9-2
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Emergency Rule 511-9-2-0.5-.12 Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Personnel

(1) No person shall practice or hold themselves out as an Emergency Medical Technician - Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, Cardiac Technician, or Paramedic without being licensed by the Department.

(2) Prior to licensure, all applicants must be certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) at the level for which they are applying, or must be certified by the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as an Advanced Tactical Practitioner (ATP).

(3) All applicants for licensure must provide information to the Department in a manner and on forms specified by the Department, to include at a minimum the name, home address, mailing address, email address, phone number, date of birth and social security number of the applicant.

(4) Applicants shall not misrepresent or falsify any information on forms, applications, or documents filed with or submitted to the Department for the purpose of licensure or any other purpose specified in these rules.

(5) The Department may refuse to issue a license to an applicant who has been subject to disciplinary action imposed by another state or lawful licensing or certifying authority.

(6) All applicants for licensure must submit to a fingerprint based criminal history records check from the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

(a) Fingerprints shall be in such form and of such quality as prescribed by the Department, the GCIC and under standards adopted by the FBI.

(b) Fees may be charged as necessary to cover the costs of the records search.

(7) Fees.

(a) All applications for initial licensure must be accompanied by a fee payable to the Department in an amount and form determined by the Department.

(b) Fees are not refundable after being submitted.

(8) Licensing of Individuals with Criminal History.

(a) The Department shall deny any license application submitted by an applicant who has been convicted of a felony, a crime of violence, or a crime of moral turpitude; and, may deny any license application submitted by an applicant who has been convicted of driving under the influence or possession of a controlled substance.

(b) The Department may deny any license application submitted by an applicant with unresolved criminal charges, whether initiated by arrest warrant, information, accusation, or indictment. This subsection shall not apply to minor traffic offenses.

(c) At its discretion, the Department may reconsider an application subject to subsections (a) or (b) above on the ground that;

1. The conviction has been set aside, pardoned, expunged, or overturned on appeal;
2. The criminal charges were finally resolved in the applicant's favor through acquittal, dismissal, or nolle prosequi; or
3. The applicant has demonstrated significant efforts toward rehabilitation, such that the applicant can be trusted with the care of sick or injured patients, their property, and the equipment and supplies that may be entrusted to him or her.

(9) Any currently licensed Medic may voluntarily surrender their Medic license by notifying the Department in a manner and on forms specified by the Department. Once processed by the Department, surrenders are not reversible, and the individual would need to complete the current Department-specified application process and meet all licensing requirements to obtain a new Medic license.

(10) Upon request, the Department shall be authorized to place a Medic license in retired status after which the individual will be permitted to continue to use the former licensure level title and number with “(Ret.)” after it. An individual in retired status will not be licensed to perform the duties of a Medic as defined in these rules. Applications for license retirement shall be submitted in a manner and on forms specified by the Department and must be submitted by the Medic themselves. Once processed by the Department, retirements are not reversible, and the individual would need to complete the current Department-specified application process and meet all licensing requirements to obtain a new Medic license. Eligibility requirements for retirement of a Medic license are as follows:

(a) The individual must be currently licensed as a Georgia Medic, and the Medic license must be in Good Standing at the time of application; and

(b) The individual must have a minimum of 15 years of continuous uninterrupted licensure as a Georgia Medic, inclusive of the date of application.

(11) Upon request from the next of kin to place a Medic license in deceased status and obtain a certificate of active service for an individual who dies while currently licensed in Good Standing as a Georgia Medic, the Department shall be authorized to place the respective Medic license in deceased status and provide a certificate of service to the next of kin. The request shall be accompanied by a certified death certificate or other documents recognized by the Department.

(12) Downgrades of Medic Licenses. Currently licensed Medics in Good Standing who hold a non-provisional license at the EMT level or higher may voluntarily request the Department to downgrade their Medic license. The request shall be made to the Department in a manner and on forms specified by the Department and shall indicate the requested new level of license. Once processed by the Department, downgrades are not reversible, and the Medic would need to complete the current Department-specified application process and meet all licensing requirements to obtain a higher level of Medic license.

(a) Permitted downgrades are as follows:

1. Currently licensed Paramedics and Cardiac Technicians in Good Standing will be permitted to request a downgrade to the AEMT, EMT, or EMT-R levels.
2. Currently licensed AEMTs and EMT-Is in Good Standing will be permitted to request a downgrade to the EMT or EMT-R levels.
3. Currently licensed EMTs in Good Standing will be permitted to request a downgrade to the EMT-R level.

(b) Applications for downgrade must be accompanied by the following:

1. A fingerprint based criminal history records check from the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as described in paragraph (6) of this rule, and subject to paragraph (8) of this rule; and
2. An application fee, as described in paragraph (7) of this rule.

(13) Temporary Licenses and License Reinstatements for Emergency Medical Services Personnel for COVID-19 Response

(a) “Temporary Compact License (Medic)” is defined as a license at the EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic level that is issued by the Department to a person who holds a current EMS license in good standing, including remote state privilege to practice, in another member state of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice (“Compact”). Temporary Compact Licenses shall have the following requirements:

1. A Temporary Compact License is not renewable and shall not be valid for longer than 120 days from the date of issuance, and a person may not be issued more than one Temporary Compact License at the same level of licensure. Persons issued Temporary Compact Licenses may apply for non-temporary medic licenses at any time. After the Temporary Compact License

has lapsed, the person will be required to obtain a non-temporary medic license to continue to work as a medic in Georgia.

2. A person who is licensed in another member state of the Compact at the Paramedic level will be eligible to apply for a Temporary Compact License at the Paramedic level in Georgia and will be required to follow the Georgia EMS Scope of Practice for Paramedics.

3. A person who is licensed in another member state of the Compact at the Advanced EMT level or at any level in between the Advanced EMT and Paramedic will be eligible to apply for a Temporary Compact License at the Advanced EMT level in Georgia and will be required to follow the Georgia EMS Scope of Practice for Advanced EMTs.

4. A person who is licensed in another member state of the Compact at the EMT-Intermediate (1985 curriculum), any level in between the EMT-Intermediate (1985 curriculum) and EMT, or EMT level will be eligible to apply for a Temporary Compact License at the EMT level in Georgia and will be required to follow the Georgia EMS Scope of Practice for EMTs.

5. No more than one person with a temporary license may serve on an Ambulance during patient transport.

(b) The Department may establish guidelines, requirements and procedures that allows persons previously licensed by the Department as a medic to apply for, and if all requirements are fulfilled, receive reinstatement of their previously lapsed medic license. Applicants for reinstatement must have possessed a Georgia non-provisional and non-temporary medic license that was in good standing when the license lapsed for failure to renew between March 31, 2019 and March 31, 2021.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-3, 31-2A-6, 31-11-5, 31-11-51, 31-11-52, 31-11-56 and 38-3-71.