

REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF AMBULANCE, COVEALASCENT AND INVALID SERVICES IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Under the Provisions of T.C.A. 7-61-103, the governing body of any county may enforce restrictions and regulations for the operation of patient transportation services (ambulance, invalid, convalescent, etc.) inside their county.

Cumberland County hereby establishes the following regulations for all new or current ambulance services, convalescent services or invalid transport vehicles operating in Cumberland County.

1. CERTIFICATION

- A. The service must provide the County Mayor notice of plan to operate in Cumberland County. The affidavit Must confirm that the service meets all regulations to operate in this county.
- B. The State EMS Consultant will visit the service to verify that all regulations are met.
- C. The Commission reserves the right to reject any application. The Commission must approve any application by a two-thirds majority.
- D. The service will be required to provide notice annually to the County Mayor for continuance of the authorization. The authorization may be revoked by the State EMS Consultant if any of state regulations are broken.
- E. The service should be a fully licensed service by the State EMS.

2. ENFORCEMENT

- A. All vehicles, equipment and response reports shall be made available at all times for inspection by the Cumberland County Ambulance Director or his/her designee and the State EMS Consultant with the exception of records protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (P.L.104-191).
- B. The County Ambulance Director and Regional EMS Consultant shall investigate all allegations of violations of these regulations, then present these investigations or any patient care issues to the County Mayor for information and input, and recommend action to the

County Commission. All services must be HIPPA compliant and comply with state EMS marking regulations.

- C. Failure to comply with the state regulations may result in the authorization to operate being revoked by the state and legal action if needed to cease the service's operation in Cumberland County.

3. **INSURANCE**

- A. All services operating in Cumberland County shall maintain with a Insurance Company authorized to do business in the State of Tennessee, liability coverage on all vehicles and professional liability coverage on all of its employees of not less than 1 million dollars per occurrence or accident.

4. **NAME**

- A. No service, company or vehicle other than the duly constituted government service, shall use the words, "Cumberland County" as part of its name.
- B. The units themselves shall display boldly the company name and the unit identification number where it is easily visible to the public and comply with state EMS marking regulations.

5. **VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

- A. All vehicles shall not be more than 10 years old from the date of new sale or have more than 225,000 miles on the odometer. All units shall be manufactured by a licensed ambulance manufacturer per Federal KKK-A-1822 specifications.
- B. All vehicles must conform to the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Department of Health concerning specifications and equipment. Each service must be a class A.
- C. Each vehicle shall be equipped with 2-way radio communications between its base, each hospital in the region and Cumberland County's 911 Communication Center. Vehicle wattage must be at least 75 watts and base wattage must be at least 100 watts. The service must maintain a current FCC license.
- D. Each service shall be licensed as a Class A service and all units be Advanced Life Support equipped and must meet all the requirements for a Class A unit. Each unit will also carry and include all of the medical supplies and equipment listed on the current state ambulance

supply inventory list and carry the listed quantities of each as a minimum.

6. **PERSONNEL**

- A. Each unit shall be staffed by a driver and a technician. The driver must be an Emergency Medical Technician-IV and the technician must be an Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic. Both personnel must be currently certified with the state of Tennessee and in good standing.
- B. Personnel must be physically able to perform the duties and each service shall keep on file verification of an annual physical exam by each employee.
- C. All personnel must be neat, clean and in good appearance and shall dress in exact uniforms with the name of the personnel easily visible on the uniform. The uniform shirt shall have some type of insignia patch on it displaying the name of the service. The uniform pants and shirts must be significantly different color than Cumberland County EMS or any other Cumberland County Government agency.

7. **OPERATING BASE AND SUB-STATIONS**

- A. Each service shall maintain a base in the city limits of Crossville and 4 substations strategically located throughout the county. There shall be at least 1 unit based at each substation location 24 hours a day. There shall be 2 units on duty at the Crossville base 24 hours a day. The service must have a supervisor available on duty Twenty Four (24) hours a day for Seven (7) days a week.
- B. Each unit shall be housed inside and the temperature of the housing shall not be below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Cleaning facilities shall be available for employees to keep the vehicles and equipment clean. The building shall be on emergency generator backup.
- C. No unit or service shall cause or permit any vehicle to be dispatched on the basis of information obtained by monitoring a radio frequency assigned to law enforcement, ambulance service, rescue squad, or other public agency except by specific request of or prior arrangement with the coordinating agency responsible for dispatching emergency ambulances.
- D. No service shall publish or advertise a seven digit phone number for emergencies. All services shall include the 911 number in any advertising or other published document that includes a seven digit

phone number. If any emergency calls are received by the service, its personnel shall notify the Cumberland County 911 Communications Center immediately and give the exact location of the call.

- E. Each service shall maintain a Quality Assurance program with a Director to administer the program.
- F. Each service shall have a Medical Director. He or She shall be a practicing Physician in Cumberland County and he or she shall reside in Cumberland or an adjoining County and have current active CMC staff privileges.

8. REVENUE

- A. Each service must be Medicare and Tenn-Care enrolled and currently approved by each with a current subscriber number available for inspection. The service shall accept assignment on Medicare and may not bill less than Medicare allowed.

Each service shall be setup to do electronic billing with Medicare and shall be able to provide computer billing to the patient upon request.

- B. Each service shall provide a billing office where the general public could go to pay a bill. A billing person shall be there to provide service to the public. The office shall be located within the city limits of Crossville and shall be open at least 40 hours a week during normal business hours. The Director of EMS must be available to the public 40 hours per week during normal business hours.

9. NO EXEMPTIONS

- A. No service which transports patients on a stretcher shall be exempt from these regulations. Each service whether convalescent, invalid transport or emergency shall be required to meet all these regulations. All units must be staffed and supplied as an ALS unit whether it transports emergency or not. County and City governments are not exempt.

10. SEVERABILITY

- A. If any subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of these regulations is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.