

ROUTT COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

REGULATIONS CONCERNING AMBULANCE SERVICE

ARTICLE I AUTHORITY, PURPOSE AND INTENT

These Regulations are adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") under C.R.S. § 30-11-107(1)(q) and the Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Act, C.R.S. § Section 25-3.5-101, *et seq.* ("Act")

The purpose of these Regulations is to set forth the requirements for the inspection, licensure and operation of ambulance services, ambulance personnel and ambulance vehicles operating in the county pursuant to the Act; establish the structure and authority for regulatory oversight; and provide for the development and implementation of high quality ambulance services for the county.

The Board reserves the right to amend these Regulations, and any other individual conditions of licensing as applied to any particular license, as needed in keeping with its legislative function and in order to implement the policy of the State of Colorado that the regulation and control of ambulance licenses is in the exclusive purview of the Boards of County Commissioners. The Board may grant a variance from the terms of these Regulations if the Board finds such action is necessary to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.

Nothing in these Regulations shall be construed to create a cause of action or civil liability remedy in any person. These Regulations shall not be construed to create a duty to any third party where no such duty otherwise existed. It is the express intention of the Board that any third party receiving services or benefits under these Regulations shall be deemed to be an incidental beneficiary only.

If any of the provisions of these Regulations are determined to be invalid, such determination shall not affect the remaining provisions of these Regulations.

ARTICLE II DEFINITIONS

As used in these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

A. "Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)" means an individual who holds a current and valid advanced emergency medical technician certificate issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide limited acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

B. "Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance" means a type of permit issued to an Ambulance equipped in accordance with subsection III.H.6. of these Regulations to provide advanced emergency medical care when staffed by at least one Emergency Vehicle Operator and one AEMT, or other personnel with a higher level of certification.

C. "Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Service" means a type of license issued to an Ambulance Service that is able to provide advanced emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor, for an AEMT, or other personnel with a higher level of certification.

D. "Advisory Council" means the Routt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

E. "Ambulance" means any privately or publicly owned ground vehicle, especially constructed or modified and equipped, intended to be used, and maintained or operated by an Ambulance Service for the transportation upon the streets and highways in the County, of individuals who are sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

F. "Ambulance Service" means the furnishing, operating, conducting, maintaining, advertising, or otherwise engaging in or professing to be engaged in the transportation of patients by Ambulance. Taken in context, it also means the person so engaged or professing to be so engaged.

G. "Ambulance Service License" means the legal document issued to an Ambulance Service by the County as evidence that the applicant meets the requirements for licensure to operate an Ambulance Service as defined by County Regulations.

H. "Automatic Aid" means a written agreement between two or more emergency response agencies that provides for the automatic dispatch of contracting agencies to provide service within specific portions of the Service Area or under a predetermined set of circumstances.

I. "Based" means an Ambulance Service headquartered, having a station, office, Ambulance post or other permanent location in the County, or having a Service Area that includes areas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the County.

J. "Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance" means a type of permit issued to an Ambulance equipped in accordance with subsection III.H.5. of these Regulations to provide basic emergency medical care when staffed by at least one Emergency Vehicle operator and one EMT, or other personnel with a higher level of certification.

K. "Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Service" means a type of license issued to an

Ambulance Service that is able to provide basic emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor, for an EMT, or other personnel with a higher level of certification.

L. "Board" means the Board of County Commissioners for Routt County, State of Colorado.

M. "County" means Routt County, State of Colorado.

N. "Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)" means an individual who holds a current and valid registration as an Emergency Medical Responder issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide care or services as identified in national guidelines for emergency medical response.

O. "Emergency Medical Services Provider" means an individual who holds a current and valid certificate as an EMT, AEMT, EMT-I or Paramedic issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

P. "Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)" means an individual who holds a current and valid emergency medical technician certificate issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide basic emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

Q. "Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I)" means an individual who holds a current and valid emergency medical technician-intermediate certificate issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide limited acts of advanced emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

R. "Emergency Vehicle Operator" means any person who holds a current and valid Colorado driver's license and has received special instruction in the operation of emergency vehicles as a part of an EMR curriculum, the emergency medical technician curriculum or through standardized training in emergency vehicle operations offered by the Ambulance Service or other recognized program.

S. "Licensee" means the person or entity that has been issued a license by the Board to provide Ambulance Service in the County.

T. "Medical Continuous Quality Management (CQM) Program" means a process used to objectively, systematically and continuously monitor, assess and improve the quality and appropriateness of medical care provided by all medical

providers operating on an Ambulance Service consistent with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

U. "Medical Director" means a Colorado-licensed physician in good standing who establishes protocols and standing orders for medical acts performed by all medical providers operating on an Ambulance Service and who is specifically identified as being responsible to assure the competency of the performance of the medical acts by such personnel as described in the physician's Medical CQM Program in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

V. "Mutual Aid" means a written agreement between two or more emergency response agencies that provides for the contracting agencies to provide service within the Service Area of each agency upon request.

W. "Paramedic" means an individual who holds a current and valid paramedic certificate issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and who is authorized to provide advanced emergency medical care in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

X. "Paramedic with Critical Care Endorsement" means an individual who holds a current and valid paramedic certificate issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and who has met the additional conditions relating to critical care endorsement defined in 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

Y. "Patient" means any individual who is sick, injured, or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

Z. "Patient Attendant" means the person responsible for providing direct patient care during Ambulance transport. The Patient Attendant shall hold a current and valid certificate as an Emergency Medical Services Provider.

AA. "Patient Care Report" means the medical record of an encounter between any patient and a provider of medical care.

BB. "Service Area" means the geographic area of the County where an Ambulance Service provides services. Boundaries for service areas may be defined by customary practice, legally established by formation of a special district or other a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, or assigned by the County.

ARTICLE III REGULATIONS

A. Ambulance Service License Required: No person or agency, public or private, shall transport a patient from any point within the county in an Ambulance, to any point within or outside the county unless that person or agency holds a valid Ambulance Service License and Ambulance Permits issued by the County, except as provided in subsection III.C. of these Regulations.

B. Ambulance Permit: No Ambulance shall be operated by an Ambulance Service based within the County unless a permit has been issued as hereinafter provided.

C. Exceptions to Licensing and Permits Required: In addition to the exemptions granted by the State of Colorado pursuant to 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 4-Rules Pertaining to Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services, Section 3.2-County Exemptions From Licensure or Permit Requirements, or its successor, the provisions of the licensing and permit paragraphs, (A) and (B) above, shall not apply to the following:

1. Vehicles used to evacuate patients from areas inaccessible to a permitted Ambulance. Vehicles used in this capacity may only move patients to the closest practical point of access for a permitted Ambulance or medical facility.
2. Vehicles, including Ambulances from another Colorado county or adjacent state, used during a major catastrophe or multi-casualty event when the number of Ambulances permitted by the County is insufficient.
3. An Ambulance Service that does not transport patients from any point within the county or an Ambulance transporting a patient originating outside the borders of the County.
4. Vehicles used or designed for the scheduled transportation of convalescent patients, individuals with disabilities, or persons who would not be expected to require skilled treatment or care during transport.
5. Vehicles used solely for the transportation of intoxicated persons or persons incapacitated by alcohol as defined in C.R.S. § 27-81-102(11) but who are not otherwise disabled or seriously injured and who would not be expected to require skilled treatment or care during transport.
6. Ambulance Services licensed by another Colorado county or adjacent state operating permitted Ambulances providing services in the County pursuant to a Mutual Aid or Automatic Aid agreement with an Ambulance Service licensed in the County, or otherwise summoned to assist by an Ambulance Service licensed in the County.

7. Ambulances operated by a department or agency of the federal government originating from a federal reservation for the purpose of responding to or transporting patients under federal responsibility.

8. Short term use of temporary or loaner Ambulances supplied by an Ambulance manufacturer, dealer, emergency vehicle repair shop or another Ambulance Service for use when an Ambulance with a current permit issued by the County is under repair and such Ambulance meets the vehicle and minimum equipment requirements of these Regulations. Any Ambulance Service licensed by the County shall notify the County immediately when a temporary Ambulance is placed in service and may operate the temporary Ambulance for up to thirty (30) days without a permit.

9. Vehicles used for the transportation of persons injured at a mine when the personnel used on the vehicles are subject to the mandatory safety standards of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, or its successor agency.

10. Ambulances duly licensed by another Colorado county that have been contracted to provide coverage for a special event that will only be in Routt County for a period up to 72 hours. The Contractor or Ambulance Service shall provide proof of licensure and permits to the County and shall notify agencies, districts and hospitals where they will be operating prior to providing such coverage.

D. Ambulance Crew Members Required: No patient shall be transported in an Ambulance which is operating in the County unless the Ambulance is staffed by a crew consisting of at least one (1) Emergency Vehicle Operator and one (1) Patient Attendant, except under extraordinary circumstances pursuant to C.R.S. § 25-3.5-202.

E. Medical Director Required: Each Ambulance Service licensed by the County shall have a single Medical Director meeting the requirements duly established by the State of Colorado pursuant to 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor, to supervise the medical acts of all personnel providing emergency medical care on the Ambulance Service. The Board, or their authorized representative, shall notify the Medical Director in writing of any violations of these Regulations by the Ambulance Service or alleged complaints or violations by individual medical providers operating on an Ambulance Service when such allegations or violations are known to the Board. The Board shall be informed in writing within three (3) business days of any changes in Medical Director during the term of the Ambulance Service license. The Medical Director shall attest in writing to his or her willingness to provide medical oversight and medical CQM services for the Ambulance Service.

F. Insurance: No Ambulance Service shall operate in the County unless it is covered by workers' compensation insurance, commercial or comprehensive general

liability insurance, complying motor vehicle liability insurance, medical malpractice or professional liability insurance, and other insurance policies as may be required by law, in amounts that meet or exceed limits specified in the Workers' Compensation Act, the Governmental Immunity Act, the Motor Vehicle Financial Responsibility Act, or other applicable statutes, furnished by an insurance carrier appropriately licensed to write such policies in Colorado. Every insurance policy required shall provide for continuing liability thereunder to the full amount, notwithstanding any recovery thereon, that the liability of the insured shall not be affected by the insolvency or bankruptcy of the insured and that the insurance company will not be relieved from liability on account of nonpayment of premiums, failure to renew the Ambulance Service license, or any act or omission of the insured unless the policy is canceled, terminated or revoked with appropriate written notification as required in these Regulations.

The county shall be notified, in writing, thirty (30) days prior to any cancellation, termination, revocation or other material change in coverage. Certificates of insurance, with the county named as certificate holder, shall identify the vehicles covered by the policy, type of insurance, policy number(s), policy effective date and expiration date and amount of coverage. Notification of any changes in insurance, including vehicles covered under the policy, shall be made to the county in writing, and a new certificate of insurance forwarded to the Board within thirty (30) days of the changes. Certificates of insurance shall be filed with the county with the application for an Ambulance Service license as required in these Regulations. The Board may require reasonable additional coverage and proof of insurance at any time it deems necessary to promote the public health, safety and welfare.

G. Ambulance Specifications:

1. All Ambulances in the County shall comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards effective on the date of manufacture for the completed vehicle and the Ambulance conversion shall be manufactured by an organization registered with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as a final stage manufacturer, or superseding standards established by the State of Colorado.
2. Each Ambulance shall clearly display permanent markings on both sides showing the name of the Ambulance Service under which they are licensed.
3. Each Ambulance shall be maintained at all times in a safe operating condition and in compliance with Colorado motor vehicle statutes, rules or regulations. At the time of application for permit the Ambulance Service shall submit to the County a certificate prepared by a qualified mechanic certifying the Ambulance is in a safe operating condition based on the vehicle manufacturer's specifications, federal motor vehicle safety standards and Colorado statutes, rules or regulations governing motor vehicles.

H. Ambulance Equipment: Each Ambulance shall be outfitted with the following equipment:

1. Audible and visual warning devices and any special markings to designate it as an Ambulance as required by statute for authorized emergency vehicles.
2. Safe tires and, in addition, approved snow tires or alternative traction devices when weather conditions demand.
3. Appropriate protective occupant restraints for the vehicle operator and any other Ambulance personnel.
4. Appropriate protective occupant restraints for patients, accompanying family members or other persons being transported.
5. The minimum required equipment for a Basic Life Support Ambulance shall be that listed in 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 4-Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services, or its successor, effective on the date of the application for Ambulance permit.
6. The minimum required equipment for an Advanced Life Support Ambulance shall be that listed 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 4-Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services, or its successor, effective on the date of the application for Ambulance permit.

I. Inspections: The Board shall appoint qualified, impartial inspectors to inspect any and all Ambulances owned, leased, or operated by a licensed Ambulance Service annually, or more often if required by the Board, to assure compliance with applicable rules and regulations. Ambulance inspections may be performed at any time to verify compliance with minimum equipment requirements, verify equipment is secured, and medications and supplies are maintained and stored properly. The Ambulance Service shall make maintenance logs, service records and other necessary documents immediately available to the inspector upon request. Such inspections shall be in addition to other safety or motor vehicle inspections required under Colorado law.

J. General Regulations:

1. No Ambulance Service shall operate from locations other than those on file with the county nor shall an Ambulance Service abandon any location without at least thirty (30) days prior notification to the Board.
2. All Ambulance Services shall have an ongoing Medical CQM Program consistent with the requirements established in accordance with 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 2-Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight, or its successor.

3. Each Ambulance Service licensed in the County shall document every request for service and complete a patient care report, including the required data and information specified in 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 3-Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services Data and Information Collection and Record Keeping, or its successor, for each patient assessed. A copy of the patient care report should be supplied to the receiving facility with the patient but shall, if system operational demands require the crew to depart before the patient care report is completed, be delivered to the receiving facility within twenty four (24) hours of the time that the Ambulance returned to quarters.

4. Each Ambulance Service licensed in the County shall maintain a current organization profile with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment pursuant to 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 3-Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services Data and Information Collection and Record Keeping, or its successor.

5. Each Ambulance Service licensed in the County shall provide the required data and information on patient care to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment pursuant to 6 CCR 1015-3 Chapter 3-Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services Data and Information Collection and Record Keeping, or its successor, on at least a quarterly basis.

6. Only Ambulances meeting Advanced Life Support equipment and staffing requirements at all times and for all responses may display or advertise "Advanced Life Support" or "ALS" services.

7. The Board shall be authorized to establish performance standards, assess penalties, promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to provide for quality emergency medical services, ensure compliance with Colorado law and any resolution adopted by the Board which regulates the operation and licensing of Ambulance Services in the county and to promote the public health, safety and welfare.

8. All Ambulance Services licensed by the County are required to agree to and comply with all provisions of these Regulations, or any amendments thereto, any other conditions pertinent to the license reasonably imposed by the Board and all applicable provisions of Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations in order to maintain licensure. The Board may also consider medical practices that deviate significantly from accepted standards of care and business practices that pose a risk to the public health, safety and welfare as a violation of these Regulations.

ARTICLE IV LICENSES AND PERMITS

A. Application for Ambulance Service License: An application for an Ambulance Service license shall be submitted to the County and shall contain the following information, supporting documents and application fees:

1. Type of license: BLS Ambulance Service or ALS Ambulance Service. The type of license will describe the maximum level of service that could be provided at any time by the Ambulance Service.

2. The name, address, telephone number(s) and email address of the owner of the Ambulance Service ("Applicant"). In addition, the trade or other name, if any, under which the Applicant does business or proposes to do business.

3. The name, address, telephone number(s), email address, and training and experience of the person completing the application.

4. The name, address, telephone number(s), email address, and training and experience of the person who will be in charge of the operation of the Ambulance Service.

5. If the Applicant is a partnership, the name and address of each partner. If the Applicant is a corporation, the name and address of each stockholder owning ten percent (10%) or more of the outstanding stock of each such corporation and the name and address of each director of the corporation. If the Applicant is a government, the name and address of each member of the governing board.

6. A completed Ambulance vehicle permit application for every Ambulance to be used by the Applicant in providing service in the County.

7. The location(s) and description of the place(s) from which it is intended to operate the Ambulance Service.

8. Certificates of inspection or other documentation that the physical inspection of the Ambulance(s), equipment and location(s) of the Applicant has been completed and the ambulance(s), equipment and location(s) were found to be in compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.

9. The Service Area to be served by the Ambulance Service.

10. The name, address, telephone number(s) and email address of the Ambulance Service Medical Director.

11. Written attestation by the Medical Director of willingness to provide medical oversight and a Medical CQM Program for the Ambulance Service.

12. For a new license application, a service plan demonstrating the need for services to be provided, pro forma income statements, proposed operating budgets, balance sheets, bank records or other financial information as may be reasonably requested by the Board sufficient to demonstrate the Ambulance Service's ability to operate and respond within the area to be served.

13. Certificates of insurance as required by these Regulations.

14. A list of Ambulance agencies, fire departments, special districts and other EMS providers with which the Applicant has Mutual Aid or Automatic Aid agreements.

15. For a new license application, payment of a new Ambulance Service license fee in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) plus an Ambulance permit fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per ambulance. For a renewal license application, payment of an Ambulance Service license renewal fee in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus an Ambulance permit fee equal to the actual cost to inspect Ambulances. No fee shall be required for the new licensing or renewal of any Ambulance Service or the new or renewal of any Ambulance permit for an Ambulance Service operated by a municipality, special district or other political subdivision, or not-for-profit corporation that provides Ambulance services in the County but these organizations may be required to pay the actual cost to inspect Ambulances. Payment of applicable fees shall be made in United States currency or a check payable to Routt County.

16. The following shall be available for inspection:

a. A list of all emergency personnel who may be called upon to respond to an emergency with the Ambulance Service. This list shall include the following information:

- i. complete name, address, and date of birth.
- ii. the current level of certification or training.

b. The Ambulance Service shall maintain documentation for all emergency personnel who may be called upon to respond to an emergency with the Ambulance Service demonstrating their qualifications. The documentation shall include the following information:

- i. proof of a current Colorado Emergency Medical Services Provider certificate or EMR registration; cardiopulmonary resuscitation card issued by a nationally-recognized training program and other documentation demonstrating the Ambulance personnel are qualified to provide services.
- ii. proof of a valid driver's license.

c. A complete copy of the Ambulance Service's medical treatment protocols; policy and procedure manual or other operational guidelines; or other documents the county deems necessary. A copy shall be provided to the Board upon request.

B. Issuance of a New Ambulance Service License: Upon receipt of a complete application for a license to provide Ambulance Services and payment of licensing and permit fees, the Board shall review the application, the applicant's record and hold a public hearing to allow input from interested parties. No license shall be granted unless the application demonstrates complete compliance with these Regulations and applicable laws.

The Board may impose conditions on any Ambulance Service license that it determines to be necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Each license shall be granted by the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the Board and shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months following the date of issue providing that the Ambulance Service personnel, vehicle(s), equipment, and location(s) comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

C. Ambulance Service License Renewal: Application for renewal shall be filed annually, but not less than thirty (30) days before the date the license expires. The Board shall send a renewal notice to each Ambulance Service currently licensed by the County not less than sixty (60) days before the date the license expires.

D. Issuance of a Renewal Ambulance Service License: The Board shall review the application, the applicant's record and hold a public hearing to allow input from interested parties.

The Board may impose conditions on any renewal license that it determines to be necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

A license renewal shall be granted by the affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum of the Board and shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months following the date of issue providing that the Ambulance Service personnel, vehicle(s), equipment, and location(s) comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

E. Ambulance Vehicle Permits: An application for an Ambulance permit shall be submitted to the County and shall contain the following information, supporting documents and application fees, if any:

1. Type of permit: BLS Ambulance or ALS Ambulance. The type of permit will describe the maximum level of service that could be provided at any time by that vehicle and appropriate staff.

2. The name, address, telephone number(s) and email address of the owner of the Ambulance ("Applicant"). In addition, the trade or other name, if any, under which the Applicant does business or proposes to do business.

3. The name, address, telephone number(s), and email address of the person completing the application.

4. A description of the Ambulance, including make, model, year of manufacture and vehicle identification number for the Ambulance chassis, Colorado license plate number for the current year, Ambulance type, and the color scheme, insignia, name, monogram, and other distinguishing characteristics used to designate the vehicle.

5. Certificate of inspection or other documentation that the physical inspection of the Ambulance equipment has been completed and the Ambulance and equipment were found to be in compliance with the provisions of these Regulations.

6. Certificate of inspection by a qualified mechanic, an inspection by the Colorado State Patrol Motor Carrier Safety Section or other documentation attesting that the Ambulance is in a safe operating condition based on the vehicle manufacturer's specifications, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and Colorado statutes, rules or regulations governing motor vehicles.

7. For an Ambulance permit application submitted at a different time than the Ambulance Service license application, the Board may charge an Ambulance permit fee equal to the actual cost to inspect the Ambulance.

F. Issuance of Ambulance Vehicle Permits: The Board shall review the application. An Ambulance vehicle permit shall be granted by the affirmative vote of a quorum of the Board and shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months following the date of issue, or the remaining term of the applicant's current Ambulance Service license, whichever period is shorter, providing that the vehicle and equipment comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

G. Transfer of License or Permits: No license or permit issued by the Board shall be sold, assigned, or otherwise transferred.

H. Change of Ownership: Change of ownership shall require a new application and payment of license fees. Any sale or exchange of stock in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of the total outstanding stock of a corporation to anyone other than an existing stockholder at the time of the original issuance of license shall be deemed a change of ownership for the purpose of these Regulations. Any change of ownership of any transfer of stock ownership of ten percent (10%) or more shall be reported in writing to the Board within thirty (30) days of such change or transfer.

I. Reciprocity: The Board may issue an Ambulance Service license and Ambulance permit(s) to an Ambulance Service licensed by another Colorado county, or adjacent state, upon a finding that the requirements in the county or adjacent state are substantially equivalent, and the Ambulance Service agrees to comply in full with these Regulations. The Ambulance Service shall complete the application requirements, pay the appropriate fees, if any, as specified in these Regulations and provide proof of a current and valid Ambulance Service license and Ambulance permits issued by another Colorado county or adjacent state.

ARTICLE V COMPLAINTS

A. Origination of Complaints: Alleged violation of these Regulations by a licensed Ambulance Service, individual medical providers on a licensed Ambulance Service, or of an Ambulance Service operating in the County without a license, may be made in writing by any party and addressed to the Board, or by the Board on its own initiative. Any individual bringing a matter of medical competency to the Board shall waive the right of patient confidentiality as a condition of complaint submission and subsequent investigation. If any legal action is filed against a licensed Ambulance Service in a court of the United States, the State of Colorado or any of its political subdivisions, the Licensee shall notify the Board within ten (10) business days. A violation of these Regulations shall not be presumed based on the allegation. In the event that a judgment is entered against the Licensee, the Licensee shall file a copy of the findings of fact, conclusions of law and order of the court with the Board within ten (10) business days. If an action against an Ambulance Service license is undertaken by another jurisdiction, the Licensee shall notify the Board within ten (10) business days. A violation of these Regulations shall not be presumed based on the action. If the action results in a suspension or revocation of the Ambulance Service license by another jurisdiction, the Licensee shall file a complete copy of the record of the adverse action with the Board within ten (10) business days. The Board, or their authorized representative, shall provide a copy of the complaint or alleged violation to the Licensee and the Medical Director at the time it is filed.

B. Validation of Complaints: The Board, or its designee, shall complete an initial review of the complaint, judgment or adverse action within five (5) business days to determine if it constitutes a violation of these Regulations and has sufficient foundation to warrant a complete investigation. Any apparent violation of these Regulations having sufficient factual basis shall be fully investigated by the Board. The Board shall notify the complainant in writing if the complaint or allegation of violations is outside the purview of the Board or lacks sufficient basis to warrant investigation. The Board shall forward complaints or allegations of violations involving EMS providers to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The Board shall forward complaints or allegations of violations against an Ambulance Service Medical Director to the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners in the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies.

C. Investigation of Complaints: The Board shall notify the complainant in writing that the allegation is sufficient to warrant a full investigation. Upon initiation of a full investigation, the Board shall notify the Ambulance Service and the Medical Director for the Ambulance Service of the alleged violation in writing. The Board shall commence action against the Ambulance Service or unlicensed Ambulance Service if the allegation is determined to be a violation of these Regulations or, at its discretion, may provide a reasonable period of time for the Licensee to cure any violation or to implement corrective measures to bring the Licensee's business activities into conformance with these Regulations before commencing action to suspend or revoke a license or permit. The Board may forego further hearing or action against the license or permit upon confirmation that the Licensee has cured the violation and satisfied any conditions reasonably imposed by the Board. The Board shall notify the complainant in writing if an investigation determines that the allegation fails to constitute a violation of these Regulations or that the Licensee has cured the violation.

ARTICLE VI PROCEDURES FOR REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION

A. The Board may, on its own initiative or upon written complaint made by any party, temporarily suspend, suspend for a definite period, or revoke any license or permit issued pursuant to these Regulations upon a determination that a violation of these Regulations by a licensed Ambulance Service or by individual medical providers on a licensed Ambulance Service has occurred.

B. Temporary Suspension: Without prior notice to the Licensee and upon determination that a violation that poses immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare has occurred, the Board may temporarily suspend any license or permit. Such temporary suspension shall be effective upon delivery of written notice to the licensed Ambulance Service by the Board. The temporary suspension shall be valid until a final decision by the Board concerning suspension, revocation or reinstatement, but no temporary suspension shall be valid for more than thirty (30) days. Any written notice of temporary suspension shall also provide notice of the time, date, and place of a hearing before the Board to consider the suspension or revocation of the license. Except upon written consent of the Licensee, the hearing shall be held not more than ten (10) business days following the effective date of the temporary suspension.

C. Suspension for Definite Period or Revocation of License: Following notice to the Licensee and a public hearing at which the Licensee shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard, the Board may suspend or revoke any license or permit. Any suspension or revocation shall require a finding by the Board of a violation of these Regulations based upon the evidence presented at the hearing. Suspension shall be for a specific and definite period of time not to exceed any remaining current license period. The County shall bear the burden of proof of a violation justifying any suspension or revocation of a license or permit. Issuance of a temporary suspension shall not be a prerequisite to the conduct of a hearing to consider the suspension or revocation of a license or permit.

D. Hearings: All suspension or revocation hearings shall be open to the public and shall be conducted in accordance with the Colorado Open Meetings Act. The Board shall be authorized to administer oaths and issue subpoenas to require the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, books, and records necessary to the determination of any issue at any hearing.

E. Surrender of License or Permit: Following receipt of a written notice of suspension or revocation, the Licensee shall surrender and deliver its license and all Ambulance permits to the Board within forty-eight (48) hours.

F. Notices: Any notice issued pursuant to these Regulations shall be made in writing and provided to the Licensee and the Medical Director at the address listed in the application for license. The Board shall use its best efforts to immediately notify in writing any communications center, and notify within three (3) business days any first response agencies, mutual aid agencies, local law enforcement agencies, hospitals and medical directors of any suspension or revocation. The Board may send notice to the Advisory Council, the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council, Colorado Board of Medical Examiners, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment or other interested parties; provided, however, that such notice shall not entitle these parties to a right to participate in any hearing concerning suspension or revocation of a license.

ARTICLE VII ACCESS TO SPECIALTY CARE GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES

In order to implement 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter 4-Rules Pertaining to Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services, Section 3.3.2, the Advisory Council shall recommend to the Board a process to provide prompt access to ground Ambulance Services for transport of patients who require specialized medical care that is not available from any Ambulance Service licensed by the county. After adoption by the County, the Advisory Council shall review or update the process at least annually to ensure the process continues to provide prompt access to care for patients requiring specialty ground Ambulance transport services that are not available from Ambulance Services licensed by the County. Each licensed acute care medical facility shall maintain records of all ground Ambulance transports originating at their facility for patients requiring specialized medical care that is not available from any Ambulance Service licensed by the County and report any specialty care ground Ambulance transports to the Advisory Council at the next regular meeting after the transport occurs. The Advisory Council shall review the specialized medical care requirements or other circumstances that required the transport to be referred to a ground Ambulance Service not licensed by the County to ensure appropriate utilization and not circumvent County licensing requirements.