City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Public Vehicle Operations Division

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR AMBULANCES

Effective January 8, 1996 Amended September 12, 2008 Amended April 15, 2010



City of Chicago Richard M. Daley Mayor

Norma I. Reyes Commissioner BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PURSUANT TO THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2-25-050 and 4-68-080 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO (HEREINAFTER "MCC"), THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING AMBULANCES ARE ADOPTED HEREIN.

By Order of the Commissioner:

Norma L. Reves Commissioner

Effective Date:

April 15, 2010

CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PUBLIC VEHILE OPERATIONS

- RULE NO. 1 Any ambulance, while engaged in the transportation of patients from one destination in the City of Chicago to another in the City of Chicago must be licensed as an ambulance pursuant to Chapter 4-68 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.
- RULE NO. 2 Any ambulance, while engaged in the transportation of patients in the City of Chicago shall have as required personnel a minimum of two City of Chicago licensed ambulance attendants.
- RULE NO. 3 No vehicle more than six model years old, including the current licensing year, shall be licensed as an ambulance.
- RULE NO. 4 a. All vehicles licensed as private ambulances by the City of Chicago must have the following painted or otherwise permanently affixed on the vehicle:
 - i) the name of the licensee and the word "ambulance" on both sides and the rear of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½" stroke and being at least 5" inches high or in accordance with a trademark design submitted to and approved by the Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.
 - ii) the word "ambulance" on the front of the vehicle positioned under the windshield in such a manner to be easily seen in the rear view mirror of a passenger car in front of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½ inch stroke and being at least 2½ inches high and printed in reverse so as to be read correctly by use of a mirror.
 - the ambulance license number. This number, issued by the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, must be either horizontally or vertically on both sides of the of the vehicle near the front end and on the top center of the rear of the vehicle in plain gothic lettering of at least ½ inch stroke and 4 inches in height.

All identifying lettering as mandated above must be in either red, dark blue or black lettering upon a white background or white lettering upon a red background.

The Commissioner, upon a written request from the licensee, may, in her discretion, approve a color and identification scheme other than the above as long as the vehicle is readily identified as an ambulance and the licensee's name is prominently displayed.

b. All vehicles must be equipped with an emergency siren registering between 90 and 103 decibels on the A scale.

RULE NO. 5

No person may apply for licensing or renewal of licensing of a vehicle as an ambulance with the Department of Revenue without submitting simultaneous with the application for licensing or renewal of licensing, an inspection form from the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection indicating that the ambulance has passed a physical inspection within the previous sixty days.

RULE NO. 6

The transportation of a deceased person pronounced dead by a duly authorized authority, from point of pick-up to destination in ambulances used for the transportation of patients, is strictly prohibited; provided that this rule does not prohibit the transportation of a deceased person in a vehicle formerly used as an ambulance if: (a) the vehicle no longer is used and/or authorized to transport patients under the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act, 210 ILCS 50, Chapter 4-68 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, or these rules; (b) the vehicle is stripped of all equipment necessary to provide medical services under the EMS Systems Act; and (c) the licensee provides written notice to the Commissioner prior to using such vehicle to transport deceased persons. Any vehicle previously used for the transportation of deceased persons as described in this rule may not be returned to use as an ambulance.

RULE NO. 7

No siren or audible signal devices are to be used by ambulances, whether occupied or unoccupied, on Outer Lake Shore Drive or on an expressway within the corporate limits of the City of Chicago, except when all the following conditions apply:

- a.) the ambulance is responding to or transporting a patient pursuant to a bona fide emergency call and not simply an inter-hospital patient transfer; and
- b.) the movement of the ambulance is impeded by stopped traffic or a traffic flow operating below the established speed limit for the Outer Drive or other expressway; and
- c.) changing lanes, driving on the shoulder, or other extraordinary means are necessary to safely

- transport the patient in a manner consistent with the emergency nature of the call; and
- d.) the siren or other audible device is used intermittently and sparingly to alert the drivers of other vehicles that the ambulance is operating in a non-compliant manner with the usual rules of the road.

Rule NO. 8

All ambulances when not occupied by an employee of the licensee must be housed in a suitable and appropriate interior location owned or leased by the licensee for the express purpose of garaging ambulances. Notwithstanding the above, ambulances may be unattended for the period of time reasonably necessary for the movement of patients to or from the ambulance.

RULE NO. 9

All ambulances when not in actual use in the transportation of patients, but occupied by at least one attendant and located within 1000 feet of a licensed hospital, may (a) be parked on private property, (b) stand in a legal parking place on a non-residential street; or (c) stand in a loading zone marked for the purpose. Parking or standing an ambulance under any other circumstances is prohibited.

RULE NO. 10

The vehicle shall be kept in a safe and clean condition at all times. Use of the patient section of the ambulance is reserved for the transportation of patients. No ambulance personnel shall eat or sleep in the patient section of the ambulance.

RULE NO. 11

No private ambulance shall transport more than one patient on any given trip expect when specifically authorized by a properly designated licensed medical authority or as directed by an authorized Chicago Fire Department official at the scene of a declared EMS plan.

RULE NO. 12

- a. Each licensee must provide or cause to be provided to their employee ambulance attendants an ambulance driver safety course, approved by the Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection. The curriculum of the course should include, but not be limited to: traffic laws and regulations pertaining to ambulances; proper use of emergency signals; and safe driving when transporting patients.
- b. Effective July 1, 1996, no ambulance attendant shall be allowed to driver the ambulance in connection with the transport of a patient without first having successfully completed a safety course approved by the Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.

c. Each licensee shall cause to be maintained a roster of all ambulance attendants having completed the course, including the dates of completion.

RULE NO. 13

Private ambulances are normally operated in four instances:

- a. in response to a call from an individual in either an emergency or non-emergency situation;
- b. in instances where a public ambulance has responded to a call, but no true emergency exists, a private ambulance may be utilized;
- c. when a patient refuses to go to the hospital which a public ambulance must use for delivery (according to Section 4-68-080 of the Municipal Code of Chicago), a private ambulance may be utilized; and
- d. for inter-hospital transportation.

It is the responsibility of a private ambulance to respond to a request for the transportation to or from a hospital. All contracts for such service must be fully completed by the private ambulance. If additional help is required, back-up service should be obtained, except in extraordinary circumstances posing an immediate risk to the health or safety of a patient, from another private ambulance and not a public ambulance.

In the event that extraordinary circumstances require the use of a public ambulance to complete a trip originated by or contracted with a private ambulance, the licensee shall file with the Chicago Fire Department and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection a full written report on such incident within seventy-two hours. Such report shall contain all relevant facts surrounding the incident.

RULE NO. 14

Each licensee shall maintain at its place of business a permanent record with shall be available for inspection by the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection listing the date of all trips, the time of the trip, the unit number, the attendants' names, the name of the patient, the person requesting the service, the location of the pickup and discharge, together with the fee charged.