

PUTNAM COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. 2021- 028

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM, STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE II OF CHAPTER 20 OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY CODE RELATING TO EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County previously adopted Ordinances regulating nonemergency medical transportation services, which were codified in Article II, Chapter 20 of the Putnam County Code; and

WHEREAS, changed circumstances indicate the need to amend these regulations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners, Putnam County, Florida that:

SECTION 1. Article II, Chapter 20 of the Putnam County Code is hereby amended to read as follows, with underlined matter added and strike-through matter deleted:

ARTICLE II. EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 20-93. License to operate service required.

~~Every person or entity that furnishes, provides, operates, conducts, maintains, advertises, engages in, or proposes to engage in nonemergency medical transportation service to persons whose condition is such that they do not need, or are not likely to need, medical attention during transport upon the streets, highways, waterways, or airways of the County shall acquire a license from the Board of County Commissioners (the "BOC"). Such activity is referred to herein as nonemergency medical transportation services.~~

The Board of County commissioners specifically intends that The Putnam County Fire/Rescue Department shall be responsible for providing emergency and non-emergency pre-hospital advanced life support and basic life support medical services and transport services within the county. The role of private ambulance advanced life support and basic life support services within the county shall be provided on request, emergency or non-emergency interhospital transport or transport services, inter hospital neonatal and emergency or non-emergency organ/blood transport, including the transport of transplant teams, and emergency or non-emergency interfacility medical transport. Said private certificate holders will be capable of emergency response/service upon request by the Board or the Chief of Fire - Rescue in case of disaster or other event requiring said services which is beyond the normal capabilities of the Department. Said private certificate holders will be either Class B, Class C or Class D below. All Licensees are required to meet applicable state statutes and administrative codes.

Classifications of certificates:

There shall be Four (4) categories for certificates:

- (1) Class A: Certificates for governmental entities that provide ALS rescue units to conduct emergency and non-emergency pre-hospital medical transport system or transport services, ALS or BLS service. Class A Certificates shall be valid for a two year period.

- (2) Class B: Certificates for government entities, businesses, agencies and hospitals that provide non-emergency transportation to persons whose condition is not likely to need medical attention during transport to or from a medical appointment. Class B Certificates shall be valid for a one year period.
- (3) Class C: Certificates for governmental entities that provide rescue units, or businesses, agencies and hospitals that provide ambulances to conduct non-emergency medical transport or transport services at the BLS level. Class C Certificates shall be valid for a one year period.
- (4) Class D: Certificates for governmental entities that provide rescue units, or businesses, agencies, and hospitals that provide ambulances to conduct emergency or non-emergency interfacility medical transport or transport service requiring on-board clinical capabilities which may exceed those of a conventionally equipped and staffed ALS ambulance which services originate within the county pursuant to a physician's order, interhospital neonatal and emergency or non-emergency organ/blood transport, including the transport of transplant teams or other emergency or non-emergency interhospital medical transport services at the ALS or BLS level between two establishments licensed as hospitals pursuant to chapter 395, Florida statutes. Class D Certificates shall be valid for a one year period.

Sec. 20-94. Application, insurance, etc.

Any person or entity seeking licensure as an emergency or nonemergency medical transportation service shall:

- (1) Submit a license application to the BOCC on a form approved by the BOCC.
- (2) Remit the required fee.
- (3) Submit a completed vehicle permit application on a BOCC-approved form and provide documentation that its vehicles and equipment are in good working order and have been inspected by the County pursuant to Section 20-100. A permit for each vehicle will be issued upon receipt of the required fee.
- (4) Provide proof of adequate insurance coverage for claims arising out of injury or death to persons and damage to property resulting from any event for which the owner of said business or service would be liable. Insurance coverage must protect against liability for bodily injury and property damage, commercial general liability insurance, commercial vehicle insurance and machinery insurance, all to be in amounts and forms of insurance policies as may from time to time be reviewed by County. The minimum amount of insurance coverage required shall be \$1,000,000 3,000,000 combined single limit and Putnam County shall be named as an additional insured. A copy of this must be sent to the attention of the County Administrator annually.
- (5) Provide evidence that its emergency or nonemergency medical transportation vehicles are staffed by ~~sufficient~~ adequately trained and certified personnel to ensure safe loading, treatment, transport and unloading of patients as established by state statute as applicable.

Upon compliance with the foregoing and a determination that the issuance of a license is in the best interest of the County, the County Administrator shall issue the license.

Sec. 20-97. Vehicle permit renewal.

To renew an emergency or nonemergency medical transportation vehicle permit issued hereunder, the applicant shall:

- (1) Submit a renewal application to the BOCC at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the permit.
- (2) Submit the required renewal fee.
- (3) Provide documentation that current standards for issuance of a permit are met.

Sec. 20-98. Vehicle sanitation and maintenance.

All emergency or nonemergency medical transportation vehicles shall:

- (1) Have interior equipment which is smooth and easily cleaned.
- (2) Have properly functioning electrical systems.
- (3) Be free of hazards including, but not limited to, slippery floors, sharp edges, and unpadded interior door head clearances.
- (4) Be free of defects that interfere with the safe operation of the vehicles.
- (5) At all times meet the requirements of F.S. ch. 316 and any other applicable law.
- (6) Have all equipment in the passenger compartment safely and adequately secured.
- (7) Have doors, latches and handles that are in proper working order.
- (8) Have clean blankets, linen or disposable sheets for each stretcher patient transported.
- (9) Be maintained in a sanitary manner at all times.

Sec. 20-99. Vehicle design.

- (a) Emergency and Nonemergency medical transportation vehicles shall adhere to the vehicle criteria set forth in F.S. ch. 316 and any other applicable law. All such vehicles and their equipment shall be serviced and maintained in accordance with applicable law and good operating practices.
- (b) Each nonemergency medical transportation vehicle which is intended to be used for or is used for the transportation of individuals in wheelchairs shall:
 - (1) Have a lift facility which is operated electrically, hydraulically or mechanically, with sufficient capacity to safely and smoothly lift passengers into the vehicle.
 - (2) Have, for each passenger transported, two positive means of securely latching or locking the wheelchair in which a passenger will ride to the vehicle. The latching or locking devices shall be designed to prevent any lateral, longitudinal or vertical motion of the wheelchair within the vehicle.

- (3) Have, for each passenger transported, restraining belts or straps designed to securely confine passengers to wheelchairs in which they are transported, and such belts and straps shall be used per the recommendations of the manufacturer.
 - (4) Have, in addition to the rear-vision mirrors required by F.S. ch. 316, an inside rear-vision mirror that enables the driver to view the entire passenger compartment.
 - (5) Have vehicle entry and exit doors equipped with latching devices sufficient to restrain individual passenger conveyances within the passenger compartment of the vehicle. Striker plates to prevent accidental door opening will be used in conjunction with latching devices.
 - (6) Have a smooth floor which has a minimum of voids or pockets at the floor to side wall areas to avoid water or moisture becoming trapped.
 - (7) Have a floor covering of material which can be maintained in a safe, sanitary and odor-free manner.
 - (8) Carry in the driver's compartment a five-pound A: B: C: fire extinguisher as a minimum.
 - (9) Have a patient compartment that provides a minimum of 50 inches of height, measured from the finished floor to the finished ceiling.
 - (10) Have operable two-way communication capability with the service's base station via radio or wireless phone.
- (c) Nonemergency medical transportation vehicles which are intended to be used for or are used for the transportation of persons on a stretcher must also have:
- (1) A crash table litter fastener (side or center mounting style) of the quick release type.
 - (2) Restraining devices on each stretcher, cot and litter that will prevent dislodgment of the patient during transit, all to be used as recommended by the manufacturer.

Sec. 20-100. Vehicle inspection.

A designated agent of the BOCC shall provide an annual inspection of each vehicle for compliance with the foregoing standards. In addition, the agent may also inspect any vehicle at any time. The results of each inspection shall be recorded and a copy provided to the operator. Any vehicle failing to meet required safety standards shall not be operated as an emergency-or nonemergency transporter.

Sec. 20-102. Drivers, Personnel qualifications

Each emergency or nonemergency service licensee is responsible for ensuring that its vehicles are driven-operated by trained, experienced and otherwise qualified personnel. The licensee shall at a minimum document and retain on file that each of its driverspersonnel:

- (1) Is at least 18 years old.

- (2) Certifies under oath that he/she is not addicted to alcohol or any controlled substance.
- (3) Certifies under oath that he/she is free from any physical or mental defect or disease that might impair their ability to drive a nonemergency medical transportation vehicle.
- (4) Has not, within the past three years, been convicted of reckless driving, or driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, and has not had a driver's license suspended.
- (5) Possesses a valid Florida operator's license.
- (6) Is trained in the correct use of the special equipment required for wheelchair ~~and-or~~ stretcher transport.
- (7) Is trained in a national safety council defensive driving course or its equivalent.
- (8) Possesses a valid American Red Cross Standard First Aid and Personal Safety Course Card or its equivalent.
- ~~(9)~~ Possesses a valid American Red Cross or American Heart Association Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Card or its equivalent.
- ~~(9)(10)~~ Possesses and Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic certificate if applicable to the level of necessity for the transportation authorized and permitted by the BOCC to the licensee.

Sec. 20-104. Advertising.

All advertising or other solicitation for business by a Certificate "Class B" licensee for nonemergency medical transportation service shall emphasize in a conspicuous manner that the service does not provide medical attention and that the service is designed for those persons whose physical impairments render it impractical to use regular, common carrier or taxi services. The term "ambulance" ~~shall not~~ will only be used to identify ~~any emergency or nonemergency medical transportation vehicle or service or be used in any advertisement by a licensee that is able to provide ALS or BLS service that meet state statutes as such and have appropriately trained and certified personnel to attend to the patient's needs while in transit.~~

SECTION 3. INCLUSION IN THE CODE. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Ordinances of Putnam County, Florida. To this end, any section or subsection of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intention, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article" or other appropriate designation.

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES. Any Ordinance or part thereof, in conflict with this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 5. If any portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, inoperative or void, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance. If this Ordinance or any portion thereof shall be held to be inapplicable to any person, property or circumstances, such holding shall not affect its applicability to any other person, property or circumstances.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall become effective upon receipt of acknowledgment of filing by the Secretary of State.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of July, 2021.



Board of County Commissioners
Putnam County, Florida

By: _____

Larry Harvey, Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk of Courts