

Guideline for Reinstatement of EMS Providers Suspended Because of Impairment

Virginia Office of EMS
Division of Regulation & Compliance
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Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Guideline for Reinstatement of EMS Providers Suspended Because of Impairment

I. Purpose

The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) recognizes the need to establish guidelines for the reinstatement of EMS certification following enforcement action because of a chemical-dependence impairment.

This guideline exists to provide a consistent process for OEMS staff to utilize when considering a request for reinstatement of EMS certification; to ensure balanced accountability and patient safety; to encourage EMS providers to report the issues and seek treatment; and provide an opportunity for competent EMS providers to regain their EMS certification under certain conditions.

II. Requirements

- A. There was no intent to cause direct or in-direct harm to any patient.
- B. Regulant must have successfully completed an adult initial substance abuse treatment program, a minimum of 12 weeks with a final diagnosis of full remission. Program must be supervised by an individual credentialed at the level of Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC) and be clinically supervised by a Licensed Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioner (LSATP).
- C. Regulant must have participated in some form of group recovery program for a period of not less than 6 months supervised by a mental health professional licensed by the Department of Health Professions.
- D. Regulant must be current in continuing education, or, be able to complete continuing education requirements of EMS certification level prior to expiration &/or re-entry period.
- E. Within 60 days prior to request for re-instatement, the regulant must submit fingerprints and provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded by OEMS through the Central Criminal Records Exchange of the Virginia State Police to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for obtaining his criminal history record information.
- F. Regulant must provide a copy of a drug screening analysis conducted within 60 days prior to request for re-instatement.
- G. Regulant must have the written approval of the Operational Medical Director (OMD) of the EMS agency they wish to affiliate.

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- H. Regulant must not have been convicted of any felony crimes that may be disqualifiers to affiliate with an EMS agency and/or hold EMS certification, pursuant to the *Virginia EMS Regulations*.
 - I. If re-instatement is granted, the regulant must complete all requirements of the EMS agency and OMD prior to practicing as an Attendant in Charge (AIC).
 - J. If re-instatement is granted, the provider must successfully complete any process established by the EMS agency and OMD to be released to practice (i.e., supervised field preceptorship, patient care protocol review, etc.).
- III. Process
- A regulant may request in writing, the one-time re-instatement of their EMS certifications after a minimum of one year has passed since the enforcement action.
 - Regulant shall provide documentation of completion of the requirements set forth in Section II of this guideline to the OEMS.
 - The Operational Medical Director (OMD) for the EMS agency the regulant will affiliate with must review the request and make a recommendation to the state Medical Director.
 - The state Medical Director shall review the request and make a recommendation to the state Health Commissioner.
 - Every effort should be made to resolve any differences of opinion in the recommendation of the EMS agency OMD and state Medical Director before a request is submitted to the Health Commissioner.
 - The recommendation of the Health Commissioner is considered final. In the absence of a decision from the Health Commissioner within thirty days to approve/deny the request, the recommendation of the state Medical Director shall stand.
 - The OEMS Director of Regulation & Compliance Enforcement or the appropriate Supervisor of the Regulation and Compliance Enforcement Division will notify the regulant in writing by certified letter of the decision.