



# Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services



## Division of Health

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### EMERGENCY ORDER

### TEMPORARY WAIVER OF OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA SYSTEMS REGULATIONS REGARDING RECIPROCITY

September 3, 2005

On Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup> Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast leaving many injured and killed. Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi were severely affected by this disaster and many are in urgent and dire need of medical services. Border States are called upon to respond to the needs of our neighbors and provide all possible assistance and services that might aid those in need.

Therefore, an EMERGENCY exist which requires the State of Arkansas to muster its resources and provide any and all emergency medical services. Helicopters and personnel are currently in neighboring States providing care, treatment and transportation of those injured to medical facilities. However, a crisis exist due to lack of Arkansas certified EMT's in other States to operated necessary equipment and provide needed care.

The Arkansas Board of Health has adopted Rules and Regulations for Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems. Paragraph [F] page 38 of these Regulations provide for a process to be followed in order for a licensed or certified EMT in another State to become certified in Arkansas by Reciprocity. These Regulations provide that it is the responsibility of the Arkansas Department of Health, now the Division of Health of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, to authorize or approve Arkansas Certification of EMT's.

In light of this current EMERGENCY and as the State Public Health Officer and Director of the Division of Health I hereby declare that the process required for certification by Reciprocity pursuant to paragraph [F] of the Rules and Regulations for Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems shall be waived temporarily for a period of thirty days from the date of this Order so that needed medical care and transportation can be provided to victims of this disaster. This Waiver shall apply to applicants from the States of **Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, and Texas.**

**WHEREFORE**, as Director of the Division of Health and member of the Arkansas Board of Health I hereby declare that on this day September 3, 2005 the above provisions of the Arkansas Board of Health Rules and Regulations for Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems and specifically the process required for certification for Reciprocity pursuant to Paragraph [F] are hereby temporarily suspended fro applicants from the following States: **Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, Indiana, and Texas.**

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State Public Health Officer