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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY**

# CERTIFICATION

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on October 3, 2016 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:*

Authored by SP Member Jeremy Agerico B. Rosario

## PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 202-2016

### **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR AMBULANCE DRIVERS IN THE FOURTEEN (14) PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN PANGASINAN**

**WHEREAS**, an ambulance driver is a person who possesses a valid professional driver's license, who has undergone Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Aid Trainings and who has been issued an appropriate Provincial Certified Identification (ID) Card through the Provincial Health Office;

**WHEREAS**, such said ambulance driver should take the full appropriate measures not to further endanger the lives of the patient and the medical crew they are tasked to transport;

**WHEREAS**, emergency hospital vehicle or the ambulance must be operated in a manner that provides for due regard and safety of all persons and property. Safe arrival and patient's welfare shall always have priority over unnecessary speed or dangerous driving practices while in transit;

**WHEREAS**, in the light of the recent unfortunate incidents involving two (2) of the new Provincial Ambulances that resulted to mortalities, physical injuries and damaged properties, there is a paramount need to formulate standards and adopt specific guidelines for ambulance drivers to abide by;

**THEREFORE**, in view of the foregoing, on motion of SP Member Jeremy Agerico B. Rosario, duly seconded –

*Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in Session assembled:*



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**SECTION 1. TITLE.** - This Ordinance shall be known as “**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR AMBULANCE DRIVERS IN THE FOURTEEN (14) PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN PANGASINAN**”.

**SECTION 2. RATIONALE.** - Based on National Policy on Ambulance Use and Services of the Department of Health, it follows that Ambulance Drivers are tasked to transport the patient from the incident site to the emergency room of the receiving hospital for definitive care, transferring the patient to another hospital or facility for further diagnostic and treatment purposes; and that, Ambulance Drivers are driving under pressure because they have to save people's lives.

**SECTION 3. OBJECTIVE.** - To set up standards and provide guidelines for Ambulance Drivers in order to protect and save the lives of the patients and to enable them to accurately perform their defined duties and responsibilities.

**SECTION 4. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.** - The standards and guidelines, applicable to the Ambulance Drivers of all the government Hospitals of Pangasinan, are hereby stipulated as follows:

1. The Ambulance Driver (or Driver as used in this Ordinance) shall have the necessary basic requirements and necessary trainings considering that he may serve as a backup to the health care personnel in emergency situations. The said requirements and trainings shall be the following:
  - a. Must possess a valid Professional Driver's License,
  - b. Have undergone Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Aid Trainings, and
  - c. Must have a proper Provincial Certified Identification (ID) Card issued by the Provincial Health Office.
2. The Driver must obtain medical clearance including psychologic, ophthalmologic and dangerous drug tests.
3. The Driver must be adequately trained as a defensive driver and should be solely dedicated as operator of the ambulance under his care and is well versed on the proper use and maintenance of the said emergency vehicle.



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4. Driving an ambulance in transporting a patient is not a license to circumvent established traffic rules already in place. Defensive driving should be practiced at all times. The Driver must recognize that the emergency vehicle has no absolute right of way. Thus, the Driver is still required to follow all said traffic and safety rules, among of which are:
- a) The Driver, crew and the patient must wear their seatbelts at all times while in transit;
  - b.) The Driver has to take safety procedures and to operate the ambulance within the prescribed speed limit and in reasonable speed based on the condition of the roadway and traffic so that vehicle control may be maintained at all times; and, shall exercise caution while driving to ensure the safety of the patient and other drivers.
  - d) Avoid risky vehicle maneuvers if traffic conditions may not be safe for them to be successfully performed;
  - e) The driver should avoid the use of communication or mobile devices while driving the emergency vehicle; and that, the driver should not be responsible for operating the radio while the vehicle is in motion.
  - f) Only during a legitimate medical emergency transport should headlights and all emergency lights be illuminated and the siren utilized. In order for a response to be a true or potentially true emergency, there must be a reason to believe that emergency transport may make a difference in patient outcome;
  - g) In a non-emergency transport of patient, absolutely no sirens and flashers required but headlights only. Anytime the ambulance is out of the station on an assignment other than an emergency run, it shall be considered to be on a routine operation only and classified as non-emergency.



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6. Any ambulance conduction or operation shall be authorized with an accompanying fully accomplished Trip Ticket duly signed by an authorized hospital officer or the Team Doctor on duty, indicating therein the condition of the patient, whether critical or legitimate and true emergency or non-emergency or non-critical. The Trip Ticket shall include the names of the patient's companion with his/her duly signed waiver.

### SECTION 5. AMBULANCE CONDUCTION AND OPERATION. -

The Driver shall be well-informed on the importance of ambulance operation and his vital role in ambulance conduction. In addition to the Driver, it shall be the policy of all Provincial Hospitals in Pangasinan that one (1) doctor (optional), one (1) emergency nurse, and one (1) midwife, if patient is pregnant, and two (2) relatives/watchers shall accompany the patient during ambulance conduction.

The Driver must know the fact that the ambulance should never operate "Lights and Sirens", "Code 3", "Hot," or any other verbiage used locally for emergency response or call, unless he is responding to a true emergency and then, only with due regard for other vehicles.

The Driver should be knowledgeable of the legitimate and true emergency and non-emergency cases; and that the precise case shall be indicated in the Trip Ticket. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief of Hospital or the Team Doctor on duty or Emergency Room Doctor to inform the Driver about the situation of the patient.

The following information and situations shall be apprised to the Driver:

- a. LEGITIMATE AND TRUE EMERGENCY: A situation in which there is a high probability of death or serious injury to an individual, and action by the Ambulance Driver may reduce the seriousness of the situation.
- b. DUE REGARD: Driving in such a manner so as to avoid any predictable collision.

The Hospital shall develop individual standards covering such items as safe driving during both emergency response and non-emergency travel. These standards should always emphasize that the safe arrival of the patient at the emergency room is the first priority.

The Driver should know the prevailing criteria regarding vehicle speed, defensive driving, crossing intersections, traversing railroad grade crossing and the use of emergency warning devices, which shall be adhered to in the following situations:



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a. *During non-emergency travel:*

1. Drivers should obey all traffic control signals, speed limits, and rules of the road of the jurisdiction involved.
2. Emergency warning lights should not be on. If permitted by law, warning lights may be illuminated while backing into quarters for safety purposes.
3. No audible signals should be used except for the horn in an emergency.
4. The vehicle should come to a complete stop at all railroad grade crossings and proceed only when the driver is certain it is clear.

b. *During emergency response or call:*

1. Drivers should bring the vehicle to a complete stop and proceed only when safe under the following circumstances:
  - 1.1 When directed by a law enforcement officer
  - 1.2 Red traffic lights
  - 1.3 Stop signs
  - 1.4 Negative right-of-way intersections
  - 1.5 Blind intersections
  - 1.6 When the driver cannot account for all lanes if there is traffic in an intersection
  - 1.7 When an intersection is not completely clear of traffic or pedestrians
  - 1.8 When encountering a stopped school bus with flashing lights
  - 1.9 At a railroad grade crossings
2. Drivers should proceed through intersections only when the driver can account for all lanes of traffic.
3. Vehicles should not attempt to circumvent any traffic law without the use of audible and visual warning devices.
4. Extra space should be maintained between two emergency vehicles traveling in the same direction.



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5. Operating a vehicle in an emergency mode is one of the most dangerous activities in an emergency response. Careful consideration must always be given for the lives and the safety of the driver, the crew, the patient and for the safety of every other person that the ambulance will encounter during the call. Thereby, the Driver shall be reminded that he solely shall bear the responsibility for driving safely and with due regard.
6. The Driver shall be astute that traffic laws apply to ambulance drivers just like they do to other kinds of driver. THERE IS NO IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY PROVIDED BY LAW.

**SECTION 6. PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS.** - (a) Any Ambulance Driver, regardless of whether or not he is designated or holds office or employment in a casual, temporary, holdover, job order, contractual, permanent or regular capacity, committing any violation of this Ordinance shall be punished with a fine not exceeding the equivalent of six (6) months' salary or suspension not exceeding one (1) year, or removal depending on the gravity of the offense after due notice and hearing by the appropriate body or hospital concerned. If the violation is punishable by a heavier penalty under another law, he shall be prosecuted under the latter statute.

(b) Any violation thereof proven in a proper administrative proceeding shall be sufficient cause for removal or dismissal of the Driver concerned, even if no criminal prosecution is instituted against him.

**SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - If for any reason, any section or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid by competent authority, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** - All local laws, ordinances, orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof, in conflict with, or inconsistent with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES.** - Each of the fourteen (14) Hospitals of the Province, respectively, shall issue the essential and pertinent guidelines to implement specific provisions of this Ordinance.




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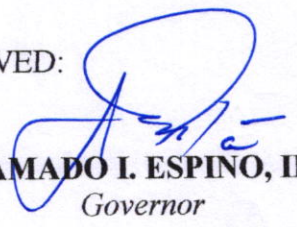
**SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY.** - This ordinance shall take effect after publication in a newspaper of local circulation in the Province of Pangasinan for a minimum period of three (3) consecutive weeks.

  
**VERNA T. NAVA-PEREZ**  
*Secretary to the Sanggunian*

ATTESTED:

  
**VICE GOVERNOR JOSE FERDINAND Z. CALIMLIM, JR.**  
*Presiding Officer*

APPROVED:

  
**AMADO I. ESPINO, III**  
*Governor*