

[RULE NO. 16-02 ]

**MOBILE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE TRANSPORTATION OF DEAD BODIES**

**Chapter 1**

**General Provisions**

**1.1 Authority**

The Mobile County Board of Health is authorized to promulgate these Regulations under and by virtue of the authority of Section 22-3-2 (1) of the Code of Alabama 1975.

**1.2 Purpose and Intent**

These regulations are intended as a supplement to the Rules of the State Board of Health 420-7-1-01. The purpose of these Regulations is to protect the public health and safety within Mobile County. These Regulations are promulgated to require persons transporting dead bodies or body parts in/or through Mobile County to obtain a permit to transport a dead body or dead body parts and to do so in a manner consistent with regulations set forth herein.

**1.6 Definitions**

The following definitions used in these Regulations shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of these Regulations:

- A) **Board** – The Board of Health of Mobile County Alabama as defined by Section 22-3-1, Code of Alabama, 1975, or the County Health Officer or his designee, when acting for the Board, for the purpose of these regulations.
- B) **Health Department** – The Mobile County Health Department or any office, agent or employee authorized to act for the department.
- C) **Body Transporter** – Any individual, partnership, corporation, association or other legal entity, transporting a dead body or dead body parts.

## Chapter 2

### Transportation of Dead Bodies

1. It shall be unlawful to transport dead human bodies over 500 grams or human body parts in Mobile County without a Mobile County Health Department permit.
2. Dead bodies transported shall be treated as a biohazard with proper containers and must be handled using personal protection equipment (PPE) as defined by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
3. Dead bodies shall be encased in a rigid container which is so constructed as to withstand hazards associated with the methods of transportation used. In order to prevent the leakage of body fluids either the dead body must be placed in a leak-proof pouch within the container, or the container must be leak-proof or the container must be placed in a leak-proof container; and
4. All dead bodies shall be clothed or covered by a shroud or other body covering, all external body orifices shall be closed with absorbent cotton and a name tag affixed to the dead body giving the name of the deceased as it appears on the death certificate on an extremity.
5. When making application a verifiable destination must be listed (Alabama Department of Public Health approved burial site, a federally approved burial site, a state licensed funeral home or a state licensed crematorium).
6. The body shall be transported with dignity and respect as defined by the National Funeral Directors Association.
7. The following entities, while serving in their official capacity, are exempt from this permitting requirement: Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences; Alabama Department of Public Health; coroners; law enforcement officers; state licensed funeral homes; state licensed ambulances; emergency responders, persons engaging in the transportation of human body parts for organ donation and individuals or entities who are licensed and engaged in interstate commerce who routinely transport dead bodies or body parts in interstate commerce who are passing through Mobile County in the ordinary course of business.

**Chapter 3**  
**Appeals Process**

**3.1 Appeals Process**

A person who has been given notice of an intent to suspend, revoke, or withdraw a permit, license, or authorization pursuant to the provisions of these rules shall be given notice of the facts or conduct which warrants the intended action and within ten (10) days following the receipt of the notice may contest such action or decision by applying in writing for an informal hearing to the Health Officer of the Mobile County Health Department, or his/her designee.

If the person is not satisfied with the decision of the Health Officer, or his/her designee following the informal hearing, he/she may make further appeal for a formal hearing to the Mobile County Board of Health within fifteen (15) days following notice of the unfavorable determination. The Board of Health shall then schedule a time for a hearing at which person(s) may appear, either individually or through an attorney, and present any facts or evidence concerning the particular situation. The Board of Health shall then confer, and inform the person of its decision within thirty (30) days of the hearing date. The appeals process is limited to these supplemental rules.