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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2026-04-10-02	Implementation of the Maine EMS Code of Ethics		April 15 2026
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	Rules	2
Approved By:	Wil O'Neal, Maine EMS Director		
<p>Overview: The Maine Emergency Medical Services Board has revised Chapter 11 of Maine EMS's Rules, which establishes a Code of Ethics for licensees (service, clinician, ambulance operator, instructor/coordinator, and community paramedicine). To implement this rule's Code of Ethics, the Maine EMS Office is adding a section to all applications that include the Code of Ethics and requires applicants to acknowledge that they have read and understand it.</p>			

Background

Prior to this rule enactment, Maine EMS relied on a code of ethics published by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and on violations of any standards established in the profession to ensure the ethical conduct of its licensees. In 2025, the Maine Legislature changed Maine EMS's statute to create the Emergency Medical Services Licensing Board. This change led the Emergency Medical Services' Board ("Board") to update Maine EMS's rules related to professional standards and disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions and procedures. As part of this rulemaking, the Board added a Code of Ethics. The purpose of this rule includes as part of the Board's rationale and intent for this change "*...[T]o make sound ethical and moral decisions, an EMS professional needs to understand and be held accountable to the ethical principles that guide choices made and actions taken, not just at a patient-centric level, but also at a level of professionalism toward fellow EMS professionals, and other healthcare professionals. In the interest of ensuring that an EMS professional has a sufficient understanding of the expectations related to the ethical principles present within the Maine EMS system, it is necessary to set forth a Code of Ethics that represents the values of the Maine EMS system.*"

Rationale for adding the Code of Ethics to the Application Form

By adding the Code of Ethics to all license applications, Maine EMS ensures a documented and enforceable way to confirm that all licensees have read and understood this standard. This process establishes the formal expectation that all licensees shall comply with the Code. Implementing the rule in this manner ensures that every applicant has been properly notified, preventing any future claims that a licensee was unaware of these ethical requirements.

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Effective Date of Change

An additional page with the Code of Ethics will be added to the application in April of 2026, and it will be a required field beginning on May 1, 2026.

Recommended Interim Action

All of Maine EMS's licensees should review, at a minimum, Section 2 of Chapter 11 of Maine EMS's rules, effective April 6, 2026.

Link to Rule Text

[Maine EMS Rules, Chapter 11 Text – Effective 04/06/2026](#)