

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 28, 2021  
**To:** The Honorable Jeff Yaroch, State Representative  
**Attn:** Marla Braun  
**From:** Mary Imre, Research Analyst  
**Re:** **Age Requirements for Emergency Medical Service Providers (Request #21-01105)**

In response to your request, the Research Services Division is providing information about states that allow for individuals under the age of 18 to be certified as emergency medical services personnel, such as emergency medical technicians or medical responders. To answer your question, I completed a 50-state survey of state laws, rules and regulations, and materials from health departments. I am not an attorney, and nothing in this memo should be construed as legal advice, opinion, or interpretation.

I identified at least 18 states that allowed for some flexibilities for individuals under the age of 18 to be certified as different types of emergency medical services (EMS) personnel. Due to your requested deadline, it is possible that I missed something and there are additional states with such policies.

### EMS Personnel Descriptions

The term "EMS personnel" applies to individuals that provide emergency medical care or urgent treatment and stabilization in varying capacities. Individuals who wish to be certified in these roles must have appropriate levels of education and training, typically specified in states' administrative codes. Below is a description from the New Hampshire Fire Academy & EMS of the four most common terms used to describe these roles.

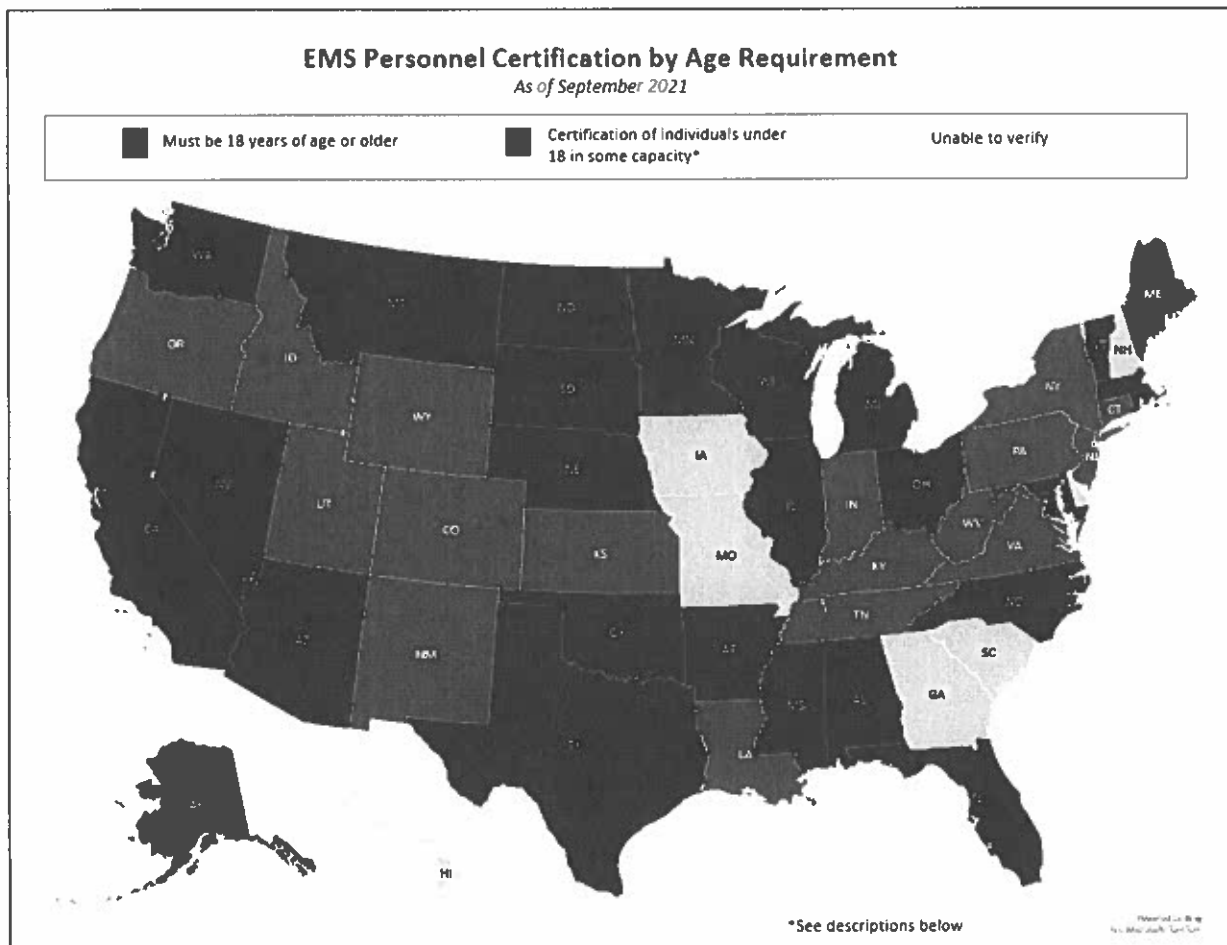
- *Emergency Medical Responders (EMR):* provide immediate lifesaving care to critical patients who access the emergency medical services system. EMRs also aid higher-level personnel at the scene of emergencies and during transport. Under medical oversight, Emergency Medical Responders perform basic interventions with minimal equipment.
- *Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT):* provide out-of-hospital emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients. EMTs have the basic knowledge and skills necessary to stabilize and safely transport patients ranging from non-emergency and routine medical transports to life threatening emergencies. EMTs perform interventions with the basic equipment typically found on an ambulance.
- *Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT):* provide both basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients. AEMTs perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance.

- Paramedics:* allied health professional whose primary focus is to provide advanced emergency medical care for critical and emergent patients. Paramedics possess the complex knowledge and skills necessary to provide top-level prehospital patient care and transportation. Paramedics perform interventions with both basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance.

It is important to note that some states may recognize additional EMS personnel roles or use different names to describe the aforementioned roles.

**EMS Personnel Age Requirements by State**

It appears that at least 18 states have chosen to allow individuals under the age of 18 to be certified as EMS personnel in some capacity. I have included a map that indicates age requirements I found in each state. I've also included descriptions of states that allow for certification for individuals under the age of 18 in some capacity. As mentioned, while I completed a thorough search, it is possible I missed something. Additionally, you may choose to further consult other states' health departments or EMS agencies for legal interpretations in each state.



*Colorado*

According to the Colorado Code of Regulations “applicants for initial [EMR] registration shall be no less than [16] years of age at the time of registration” (6 CCR 1015-3(6.2.1)). For all other EMS certifications from EMT to more advanced, individuals must be 18 years of age or older.

*Connecticut*

According to the Connecticut State Department of Public Health, EMRs must be at least 14 years old, meet training and examination requirements, and have a parental consent form. For EMTs specifically, the department provides that applicants must be at least 16 years old and have parental consent forms if under the age of 18.

*Idaho*

According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, individuals seeking initial EMR and EMT licensure must be 16 years or older. Individuals seeking AEMT or paramedic licensure must be at least 18.

*Indiana*

Indiana’s administrative code requires that applicants for certification as a first responder should be a minimum of 14 years of age (836 IAC 4-3-2(a)(1)). EMT and more advanced applicants should be at least 18 years of age.

*Kansas*

Kansas’ administrative code states that ambulance attendants “shall be at least 17 years of age” (K.A.R. 109-3-1).

*Kentucky*

According to the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, all EMR applicants must be 16 years of age or older. EMTs and more advanced EMS personnel must be at least 18.

*Louisiana*

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, “an individual is required to be 18 years of age at the time of application for an EMT, A-EMT, or paramedic license. There is no age requirement for an EMR license.”

*Maine*

It appears that Maine’s personnel licensure rules have some flexibility, stating: “no one under the age of 16 may be licensed” as an EMT. Those under the age of 18 years old must have parental consent. However, for individuals under the age of 18 to practice emergency care, the rules require a supervision plan approved by the Maine EMS agency.

*New Jersey*

New Jersey allows for some minors to earn provisional certifications to practice as EMTs with the passing of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam. The New Jersey Administrative Code provides that “minors who achieve a passing score on the NREMT [exam] shall only be issued provisional EMT-Basic status” and “shall perform services only in the physical presence and under the direct supervision of an EMT-Basic” (N.J.A.C. 8:40A-7.4).

*New Mexico*

New Mexico’s administrative code provides for individuals 16 years of age to apply for a EMR license if they are meet additional requirements listed in the New Mexico Administrative Code 7.27.2.9(E)(3). Further, individuals 17 years of age may apply for EMT-Basic licensure if they meet requirements outlined in the New Mexico Administrative Code 7.27.2.9(F)(3).

*New York*

The New York State Emergency Medical Services Code states that EMS personnel shall “be at least 17 years of age prior to the last day of the month in which [they are] scheduled to take the written certification examination for the course in which they are enrolled, except that an applicant for a certified first responder must be at least 16 years of age prior to the last day of the month in which he/she is scheduled to take the written certification examination” (N.Y Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 10 § 800.6).

*Oregon*

Oregon’s administrative rules allow for individuals to apply for EMR licensure if they’re at least 16 years of age (OAR 333-265-0025(5)(a)). Applicants for EMT, AEMT, and paramedic licenses must be at least 18 years old.

*Pennsylvania*

According to Pennsylvania’s administrative code, applicants for EMR and EMT licensure must be at least 16 years of age (PA Code § 1023.24 (b)(1)(ii), and PA Code § 1023.25(b)(1)(ii), respectively). AEMT and paramedic licensure requires individuals to be at least 18.

*Tennessee*

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, applicants for EMR certification must be at least 17 years of age, and EMT and advanced levels must be at least 18 years old.

*Utah*

Utah’s rules specify that individuals 16 years of age or older may certify for EMR. An individual must be at least 18 to certify for EMT, AEMT, or paramedic (Utah Admin. Code 426-5-300(3)).

*Virginia*

Virginia’s administrative code (12VAC5-31-900) provides that EMS personnel shall be “a minimum of 16 years of age” and any associated personnel who are younger than 16 “is not allowed to participate in any EMS response” that may increase risk for injury, disease, or chemical hazards. According to the

Virginia Department of Health, individuals under the age of 18 must provide signed verification of parental permission to complete EMT courses.

#### *West Virginia*

According to West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Policies and Procedures, an individual must be at least 16 years of age to certify as an EMT. I did not find an age requirement in the EMR policy, though I may have missed something.

#### *Wyoming*

Applicants for EMR licensure must be at least 16 years of age and EMT or above must be 18 years of age. (“Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Act of 1977” W.S. 33-36-101, Chapter 16 Section 3(a)(i)).

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If you would like clarification or have any further questions regarding this issue or another issue, please contact the Research Services Division at 3-5200.

#### **Selected References**

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- Connecticut State Department of Health. “EMR Certification by Examination.” Accessed August 2021. <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Emergency-Medical-Services/Licensing--Certification/EMR-certification-by-Examination>.
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. “Emergency Medical System (EMS) Providers.” Accessed September 2021. <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/emergency-medical-services-ems/emergency-medical-system-ems-providers>.
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