Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia

Department 112 GEORGIA CORONER'S TRAINING COUNCIL

Current through Rules and Regulations filed through June 16, 2022

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The Administrative History following each Rule gives the date on which the Rule was originally filed and its effective date, as well as the date on which any amendment or repeal was filed and its effective date. Principal abbreviations used in the Administrative History are as follows:

- f. - filed eff. - effective
- R. - Rule (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)
- Ch. - Chapter (Abbreviated only at the beginning of the control number)
- ER - Emergency Rule
- Rev. - Revised

Note: Emergency Rules are listed in each Rule's Administrative History by Emergency Rule number, date filed and effective date. The Emergency Rule will be in effect for 120 days or until the effective date of a permanent Rule covering the same subject matter superseding this Emergency Rule is adopted, as specified by the Agency.

Chapter 112-1, entitled "Rules of General Applicability," containing Rules 112-1-.01 to 112-1-.03 has been adopted. Filed September 24, 1986; effective October 14, 1986.

Chapter 112-2, entitled "Certification Requirements," containing Rules 112-2-.01 and 112-2-.02, has been adopted. Filed September 24, 1986; effective October 14, 1986.

Chapter 112-3, entitled "Adoption of Rules," containing Rule 112-3-.01 has been adopted. Filed on September 24, 1986; effective October 14, 1986.

Chapters 112-1 and 112-3 have been amended; Chapter 112-2 has been repealed and a new Chapter entitled "Rules for Certification and Training" adopted; Chapter 112-4 entitled "Hearings" containing Rules 112-4-.01 to .07, has been adopted. Filed November 17, 1993; effective December 7, 1993.

Rules 112-1-.01, .02 have been repealed and new Rules adopted, .03 has been amended; Chapters 112-2, 112-3 and 112-4 have been repealed and new Chapters adopted. Filed May 10, 1994; effective May 30, 1994.
Chapter 112-1. RULES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY.

Rule 112-1-.01. Organization.

(1) Membership Terms. The Georgia Coroner's Training Council is composed of five (5) coroners, a licensed physician, and the superintendent of the Georgia Police Academy or his designee. The five (5) coroners shall be appointed by the Board of Public Safety with three (3) of such coroners selected from a list of five (5) persons recommended by the Georgia Coroner's Association. The licensed physician shall be appointed by the Board of Public Safety and shall be trained in forensic pathology. Such physician member shall be a non-voting member of the Council. The superintendent of the Georgia Police Academy or his designee shall be a non-voting member of the Council. Except for the superintendent of the Georgia Police Academy or his designee, the term of office for members of the Council shall be four years.

(2) Public Office. Membership on the Council does not constitute public office, and no member shall be disqualified from holding office by reason of his membership.

(3) Vacancies. When a member's term expires, such member of the Council shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualified. Any coroner member who ceases to be coroner shall be ineligible to continue service on the Council. Vacancies on the council shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Public Safety in the same manner as the original appointment for the unexpired term.

(4) Officers. At the first meeting of the Council of each calendar year, the council shall elect from among its members a chairman and vice-chairman. Officer so selected shall serve a term of one year. The superintendent of the Georgia Police Academy or his designee shall serve as secretary to the council.
(5) **Quorum. Minutes. Annual Report.** A simple majority of the Council members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Council shall maintain minutes of its meetings and such other records as it deems necessary. The Council shall report annually to the Board of Public Safety and to the Georgia Assembly as to its activities.

(6) **Correspondence.** All correspondence directed to the Council shall be sent to the Council Secretary who is the superintendent of the Georgia Police Academy or his designee.

(7) **Administrative Assignment.**

(a) The Council is assigned to the Georgia Police Academy for administrative purposes only. The Council shall retain its separate identity as an instrumentality of the State and a public corporation. The Georgia Police Academy shall perform only such functions as the Council may approve.

(b) The Council shall exercise its rule-making and policy-making functions, and shall prepare its budget and submit its budgetary requests through the Georgia Police Academy.

(c) The Georgia Police Academy shall provide recordkeeping, reporting, and related administrative, clerical duties and functions for the Council, shall disseminate for the Council the required notices, rules or orders adopted, amended, or repealed by the Council, and shall include in the Academy's budget the Council's budgetary requests as a separate part of said budget. Records of the Georgia Coroner's Training Council will be maintained by the Council Executive Secretary or his/her designee. These records consist of all records, minutes, letters of certification and de-certification and other official correspondence.

(8) **Funds. Property.** The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act shall come from the funds appropriated to and available to the Georgia Police Academy, and from any other available funds. The Council is authorized to accept and use gift, grants, and donations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act. The Council is also authorized to accept and use property, both real and personal, and services for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act.

(9) **Compensation.** The members of the Council shall receive no salary but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their functions.

(10) **Training Expenses.** Members of the Georgia Coroner's Training Council may attend training programs, meetings and conferences for the purpose of obtaining information that would benefit the coroners and deputy coroners in the state of Georgia upon approval of the majority of the council. Expenses shall be paid from the operating funds allotted for the council.
Rule 112-1-.02. Definitions.

(1) The following words and terms shall have the following meaning:

(a) "Act" means the Georgia Coroner's Training Council Act.

(b) "Annual Training" means an approved training program of an ongoing nature generally offered for the purpose of updating or refreshing a coroner's knowledge and skill level.

(c) "Basic Course" means a curriculum consisting of the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes based on the tasks required to complete an inquiry as to the cause and circumstances of a death caused by foul play, accident, unexplained, or suspicious acts.

(d) "Certified Coroner" means a coroner who has the appropriate required certificate of training issued by the Council and on file with such Council.

(e) "Certified Course" means a coroner's training course certified in accordance with these rules.

(f) "Certified Deputy Coroner" means a deputy coroner who has the appropriate required certificate of training issued by the Council and on file with such Council.

(g) "Coroner" means any person appointed or elected in a county to serve as coroner.

(h) "Deputy Coroner" means a person appointed by the coroner to serve as deputy coroner.

(i) "School" means any school, college, university, academy or training program approved by the Council which offers basic, in-service, advanced, specialized, or continuing training, or a combination thereof, and includes within its meaning a combination of course curriculum, instructors, and facilities which meet the standards required by the Council.
Rule 112-1.03. Functions and Powers.

(1) The Council is vested with the following functions and authority:

(a) To meet at such times and places as is necessary.

(b) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of every department, agency, or instrumentality of the state government or its political subdivisions in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

(c) To contract with other agencies, public or private, or persons as it deems necessary for the rendering and affording of such services, facilities, studies, and reports to the Council as will best assist it to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

(d) To establish criteria to be used in certifying courses and schools authorized to conduct training required by the Act.

(e) To establish minimum qualifications for instructors.

(f) To plan and establish policy relative to coroners training.

(g) To establish and modify the curriculum including the methods of instruction and number of hours therefore.

(h) To establish and recommend curricula for specialized training courses as the Council shall deem advisable and to recognize the completion of such courses by the issuance of certificates.

(i) To determine whether an elected or appointed coroner or deputy coroner has met the requirements of the Act and is qualified to be employed as a coroner or deputy coroner and to issue a certificate to those qualified.

(j) To withdraw or suspend certification of any certified coroner or deputy coroner who has performed or is performing the duties of a coroner in violation of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(k) To develop, adopt, and issue to coroners and deputy coroners certificates based upon the attainment of specified education, training and experience.

(l) To file an action seeking equitable relief in its own name in the superior court of any county in this state having jurisdiction against a person who has performed or is performing the duties of a coroner in violation of Article III, Chapter 16, Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(m) To adopt in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act such rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act.
(n) To do any and all things necessary or convenient to enable the Council to wholly and adequately perform its duties and to exercise the power granted to it.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-1-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-16-65.
History. Original Rule entitled "Functions and Powers" was filed on September 24, 1986; effective October 14, 1986.

Chapter 112-2. RULES FOR CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING.

Rule 112-2-.01. Qualifications.

A qualified coroner is a person duly elected or appointed who, except for meeting the training requirements, meets all the qualifications set forth in O.C.G.A. 45-16-1. A qualified deputy coroner is a person duly appointed who, except for meeting the training requirements, meets all the qualifications set forth in O.C.G.A. 45-16-7.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-2-.01
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 45-16-1, 45-16-2, 45-16-6, 45-16-7, 45-16-65.

Rule 112-2-.02. Certification of Coroners.

(1) A qualified coroner shall make application for certification to the Council on a form approved by the Council. Such application shall become a permanent record of the Council. It is the responsibility of the coroner to keep the information on such application current during the period of certification.

(2) A qualified coroner shall successfully complete the next scheduled class for the basic training course provided by the Georgia Police Academy no longer than 180 days after such coroner's election or appointment.

(3) Such coroner shall cause the director of the Georgia Police Academy when said coroner has satisfactorily completed the basic training course to submit to the Council a verification on form approved by the Council that such coroner has completed the training requirements.
(4) Upon receipt of a completed application and verification, the Council shall issue a certificate of training.

(5) No coroner shall charge or collect any fee, charge, or cost of any kind for his services unless such coroner is properly certified.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-2-.02
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 45-16-1, 45-16-61, 45-16-65, 45-16-66.

Rule 112-2-.03. Certification of Deputy Coroners.

(1) A qualified deputy coroner shall make application for certification to the Council on a form approved by the Council. Such application shall become a permanent record of the Council. It is the responsibility of the deputy coroner to keep the information on such application current during the period of certification.

(2) A qualified deputy coroner shall successfully complete the basic training course provided by the Georgia Police Academy as soon as possible after employment, but prior to assuming the duties of a deputy coroner or coroner.

(3) Such deputy coroner shall cause the director of the Georgia Police Academy when said deputy coroner has satisfactorily completed the basic training course to submit to the Council a verification on form approved by the Council that such deputy coroner has completed the training requirements.

(4) Upon receipt of a completed application and verification, the Council shall issue a certificate of training.

(5) No deputy coroner shall charge or collect any fee, charge, or cost of any kind for his services unless such deputy coroner is properly certified.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-2-.03
Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 45-16-61, 45-16-65, 45-16-66.

Rule 112-2-.04. Annual Training.
(1) For each calendar year following the year of Initial certification, each certified coroner and deputy coroner shall complete 24 hours of additional training in approved courses in order to maintain such certification. It is the responsibility of the coroner or deputy coroner to submit evidence of completion of the required hours of additional annual training to the Council no later than December 31 of the year that the training was required. Approved annual training shall only be attended and credit provided once during the calendar year beginning each January 1 and ending December 31.

(2) Any coroner or deputy coroner who fails to obtain the required annual training or a waiver of the required training shall not continue to serve as coroner or deputy coroner and shall subject his/her certification to withdrawal pursuant to the procedure set forth in Chapter 112-4.

(3) A coroner or deputy coroner may have the requirement of annual training waived by the Council for personal illness or other providential cause. Such coroner or deputy coroner shall request such waiver from the Council in writing no later than December 31 of the year the training was required. If the request concerns personal illness, such request must be accompanied by a certification from a duly licensed physician. Such request shall be considered by the Council at its next scheduled meeting and the Council shall notify the coroner or deputy coroner of its decision within five (5) working days following the Council meeting. For purposes of this paragraph, "personal illness" means an illness lasting greater than six (6) months, and "providential cause" means an act of God or nature. The Council may waive the annual training requirement entirely or may require such training hours to be obtained in the following year along with the annual training hours required for such year.

(4) Anyone attending a coroner's basic or in-service course, other than a coroner, coroner-elect/appointed or deputy coroner, must have written permission from the coroner of the county of residence.

(5) Annual training attended by each coroner and deputy coroner shall be sponsored by the Georgia Coroner's Training Council at least three years out of each four year term. A request may be made for alternative training not sponsored by the Georgia Coroner's Training Council only one year out of each four year term. Alternative training shall be approved 45 days in advance of the attendance date by the Georgia Coroner's Training Council. Prior to approval a syllabus shall be forwarded to the Council for review.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-2-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A Secs. 45-16-6, 45-16-65, 45-16-66.
Amended: F. July 14, 2006; eff. August 3, 2006.

Rule 112-2-.05. Schools; Courses; Curriculum; Instructors.
(1) The Council shall formulate and promulgate a program of instruction for coroners and deputy coroners it deems necessary, which shall be designated as the Basic Course. The Basic Course shall be of such duration as the Council may provide and shall be scheduled at least twice a year.

(2) A Basic Course shall employ performance oriented instructional methods that provide opportunities for each coroner and deputy coroner to demonstrate successful achievement of established performance objectives.

(3) Course evaluation questionnaire shall be designed to reflect performance objectives.

(4) The Council shall regularly conduct an on-site observation of Basic Course training operations at each certified school. An on-site observation shall include, but not be limited to:
   (a) observation of instruction conducted.
   (b) a comparison of performance objectives with actual instructional content.
   (c) a comparison of lesson plan content with actual instructional content.
   (d) an administrative inspection to insure compliance with all adopted regulations.

(5) The Council shall review each Basic Course to assure that the courses contain current doctrine; that instructional units selected for training are valid; that training hours established for instructional units are apportioned approximately; and that performance objectives of the courses are consistent with those skills needed for effective duty performance at the basic level.

(6) Annual training shall be any training program of an ongoing nature which usually consists of a minimum of 24 approved credit hours. This shall include seminars and courses covered in successive days.
   (a) The Annual training shall be obtained in such courses approved by the Council which are directed at refreshing or updating the skills and knowledge of coroners and deputy coroners.
   (b) Any coroner or deputy coroner is eligible for recognition of completion of an approved course provided that the school or sponsor maintains accurate records of attendance for submission to the Council in such form as may be prescribed.
   (c) A coroner or deputy coroner may miss up to 10% of the course hours without being required to make up the time missed. In the event that a coroner or deputy coroner should miss more than 10% of the course, he/she will make up the time missed.
(7) Instructors. The Council may approve of an instructor for Basic Training and Annual training. The Council may request such information as is necessary to determine the competency of the instructor. The Council may withdraw approval of an instructor by written notification to said instructor.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-2-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-16-65.
Amended: F. July 14, 2006; eff. August 3, 2006.

Chapter 112-3. ADOPTION OF RULES.

Rule 112-3-.01. Petition.

(1) Any interested person may petition the Council requesting the promulgation of a rule or the amendment or repeal of a rule already in force, as contemplated in the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.

(a) Form of Petition. Each such petition shall be filed with the Council in writing and shall set forth:

1. The name and post office address of petitioner.

2. The full text of the Rule requested to be amended or repealed, or the full text of the rule desired to be promulgated.

3. A paragraphed statement of the reasons such Rule should be amended, repealed, or promulgated, including statements of all pertinent and existing facts as to the petitioner's interest in the matter.

4. Citations of legal authority if any which authorize, support, or require the action requested by the petitioner. The petition shall be verified under oath by, or in proper behalf of the petitioner.

(b) Proceeding on Petition. Upon receipt of the petition, the chairman, vice-chairman, or secretary of the Council, shall give the petition due consideration and present it to the Council, who shall decide upon the action to be taken. Within 30 days after receipt of a petition, the Council shall inform the petitioner by mail of the decision reached, and shall either decline to take the action requested, stating its reasons for so declining, or shall initiate rule-making in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.
Chapter 112-4. HEARINGS.

Rule 112-4-.01. Suspension or Withdrawal of Certificate.

(1) The Council shall have authority to suspend or withdraw a certified coroner or certified deputy coroner under this rule pursuant to O.C.G.A. 45-16-65 upon a determination by the Council that the certified coroner or certified deputy coroner has:

(a) Failed to obtain the required amount of annual training hours as provided in the Rules and Regulations of the Council. It shall be incumbent upon the certified coroner or certified deputy coroner to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that he meets all annual training requirements.

(b) Committed a crime involving moral turpitude. The conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude shall be conclusive of the commission of such crime.

(c) Been convicted of a felony in the courts of this state or any other state, territory, country, or of the United States.

(d) Been convicted of any criminal offense under the laws of this state, the United States, or any other state involving the manufacture, distribution, trafficking, sale or possession of a controlled substance or marijuana.

(e) Become unable to perform as a coroner or deputy coroner with reasonable skill and safety to citizens by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material or as a result of any mental or physical condition. As used in this paragraph, the term "conviction of a felony" shall include a conviction of an offense which if committed in this state would be deemed a felony under either state or federal law without regard to its designation elsewhere. As used in this paragraph, the term "conviction" shall include a finding or a verdict of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere in a criminal proceeding.

(2) If the Council has cause to believe that the certification of a coroner or deputy coroner should be suspended or withdrawn for a reason stated in Paragraph (1), the Council shall send a letter to the coroner or deputy coroner by certified mail to the last address of record in said coroner's or deputy coroner's application file. Such letter shall include the following:
(a) A statement of the facts asserted which support the suspension or withdrawal of certification;

(b) A statement of the rule the coroner or deputy coroner has allegedly violated; and

(c) Notice that a hearing request should be directed to the secretary of the Council. A request for hearing is a clear written expression by the affected party or authorized representative on his behalf to the effect that he wants the opportunity to contest his case. Said written expression shall be made within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of notice of adverse action. The purpose of the hearing shall be to give the coroner or deputy coroner an opportunity to appear before hearing officer to present any evidence relative to the retention of his or her certification. If no request for a hearing is received within the time period allowed, the Council shall issue a final decision withdrawing or suspending certification of the coroner or deputy coroner and advising the coroner or deputy coroner that he must cease and desist the performance of duties of coroner or deputy coroner. Once a final decision to withdraw or suspend certification of a coroner or deputy coroner, a certified letter will be sent to the same. A request for hearing shall be made within 15 days of receipt of the final decision letter. If no response for a hearing is made within ten (10) working days, the training Council shall view the lack of a response as a forfeiture of certification.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.01
Amended: F. July 14, 2006; eff. August 3, 2006.

**Rule 112-4-.02. Hearings.**

(1) The Council or hearing officer designated by the Council may deny or dismiss a request for a hearing for the following reasons:

(a) It has been withdrawn by the affected party;

(b) If the affected party or his representative fails to appear at a pre-hearing conference scheduled for such affected officer;

(c) If the affected party or his representative fails to appear at a hearing scheduled for such affected officer.
(2) The hearing officer shall have all of the power and authority set forth in O.C.G.A. Chapter 50-13 and may preside at any conferences, hearings, or Council reviews.

(3) In the event that either the affected party or the Council on its own motion moves to review the decision of the hearing officer, the review shall be limited to the record below. Oral argument shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes per side. In the event that either side wishes to present evidence outside of the record, a written request to present such evidence must be filed at least ten (10) days prior to Council review. A description of the evidence must accompany any request and Council reserves the right to deny the presentation of additional evidence.

(4) All appeals from final Council actions shall be filed pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedure Act.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.02

Rule 112-4-.03. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.03

Rule 112-4-.04. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.04
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-16-65.

Rule 112-4-.05. Repealed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.05
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-13-13.
**Rule 112-4-.06. Injunctions.**

By holding a hearing, the Council does not waive its right to seek injunctive relief as provided in O.C.G.A. 45-16-67.

*Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.06  
Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 45-16-67.  
Amended: F. Nov. 12, 1997; eff. Dec. 2, 1997.*

**Rule 112-4-.07. Recertification Procedures.**

(1) Any coroner or deputy coroner, whose certification has been withdrawn or suspended, may petition the Council annually for recertification. The written petition to the Council must contain the following information:

(a) Name, Social Security number, present address and telephone number of the petitioner.

(b) The reason(s) why the certification was withdrawn.

(c) A statement clearly outlining why the petitioner feels that a recertification is justified.

(2) The Council will review the petition at the next regular meeting and advise the petitioner within ten (10) working days of the decision. In addition to any other condition imposed by the Council, the coroner/deputy coroner whose certification has been withdrawn or suspended must complete the basic training course for coroners.

*Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 112-4-.07  
Amended: F. Nov. 12, 1997; eff. Dec. 2, 1997.*