

**RULES  
OF  
THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**CHAPTER 1200-15-04  
MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW AND PREVENTION**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1200-15-04-.01	Purpose	1200-15-04-.04	Review Procedures
1200-15-04-.02	Definitions	1200-15-04-.05	Confidentiality of Data
1200-15-04-.03	State Team Member Appointments	1200-15-04-.06	Annual Report

**1200-15-04-.01 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum standards for reporting and reviewing maternal deaths.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.

**1200-15-04-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

- (1) “Ad Hoc Team Member” means a team member appointed by the Commissioner to assist the State Team on a particular case or cases.
- (2) “Department” means the Department of Health.
- (3) “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Health, or designee.
- (4) “Ex Officio Team Members” means
  - (a) The Commissioner of health or the Commissioner’s designee;
  - (b) The state maternal and child health director or the director’s designee;
  - (c) The chief medical examiner or the examiner’s designee;
  - (d) The chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate, or the chair’s designee; and
  - (e) The chair of the health committee of the house of representatives, or the chair’s designee.
- (5) “Maternal Mortality” means a case in which a woman has died within the State of Tennessee while pregnant or within 365 days of having been pregnant.
- (6) “Staff” means employees of the Department assigned to provide administrative assistance to the State Team.
- (7) “State Team” or “Team” means the team of professionals appointed by the Commissioner to review reportable cases.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.

**1200-15-04-.03 STATE TEAM MEMBER APPOINTMENTS.**

- (1) The Commissioner will be responsible for appointing members other than Ex Officio Team Members to the State Team.
- (2) Initial appointees shall be appointed as follows: one-third of the members shall be appointed for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years. Thereafter, all State Team members will be appointed for terms of three years, provided, however, that a State Team member at the end of his or her term may continue to serve until a replacement State Team member has been appointed.
- (3) In the event that the Commissioner determines that a particular case or cases require(s) expertise not already present on the State Team, the Commissioner may appoint an Ad Hoc Team Member for that specific case.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.

**1200-15-04-.04 REVIEW PROCEDURES.**

- (1) Upon receipt of a report of a maternal mortality, staff may conduct interviews and request information and records from health care providers, law enforcement, medical examiners, employers or other individuals or entities believed to have information about the decedent and the circumstances surrounding the decedent's death, including, but not limited to, records related to any individual, entity or object whose history is determined by the Team to be germane to the death to be reviewed.
- (2) Individuals and entities who receive requests for records shall comply within fifteen (15) calendar days. In the event that records are not forthcoming, the Commissioner may seek enforcement as provided by law.
- (3) Staff shall have authority to request records related to a particular case at any time until the review of that case has been completed by the Team.
- (4) The State Team shall meet at least two (2) times per year to review cases of maternal mortality. State Team members may participate via webinar or conference call. Meetings will be closed to the public.
- (5) Upon completion of a review, all copies of records related to that case will be collected from Team members and destroyed.
- (6) Upon completion of a review, staff shall prepare a narrative summary of the case and shall enter data from the case into a secure database.
- (7) A review shall be deemed completed at such time as it is entered into the annual report of the State Team.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017. Amendments filed April 4, 2023; effective July 3, 2023.

**1200-15-04-.05 CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA.**

All individual, potentially identifying data obtained in conjunction with the review of a case shall remain confidential and not subject to subpoena or other disclosure. The State Team may share de-identified data with public health authorities, and may cooperate with public health authorities in assembling de-

(Rule 1200-15-04-.05, continued)

identified, aggregate reports of maternal mortality including cases outside the jurisdiction of the State Team.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.

#### **1200-15-04-.06 ANNUAL REPORT.**

The State Team will prepare an annual report for distribution to the Governor and General Assembly.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 68-1-103, and 68-3-601, et seq. **Administrative History:** Original rules filed May 8, 2017; effective August 6, 2017.