

PROCEDURE FOR IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION

Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 1798.202(a), the director of the EMS Authority or the medical director of a local EMS agency (LEMSA) may temporarily suspend prior to hearing a paramedic license upon a determination that: (1) the paramedic has engaged in acts or omissions that constitute grounds for revocation; and (2) the paramedic poses an “imminent threat” to public health and safety if allowed to continue as a paramedic.

If the LEMSA temporarily suspends a paramedic license, Section 1798.202(b) requires that within three working days the LEMSA shall transmit to the EMS Authority all relevant documentary evidence via facsimile or overnight mail. The director of the EMS Authority has two days after receipt of the evidence to determine whether the temporary suspension order should continue. If the director determines that the temporary suspension order should continue, the EMS Authority has 15 days after receipt of the evidence to serve a temporary suspension order and accusation on the affected paramedic. If the paramedic files a notice of defense, Section 1798.202(d) requires that a hearing be held within 30 days of the filing of the notice of defense. The director of the EMS Authority has 15 days after receipt of the administrative law judge’s proposed decision to make a final decision.

If the EMS Authority temporarily suspends a paramedic license by filing a temporary suspension order and accusation pursuant to Section 1798.202(c), the LEMSA and employer shall be notified. If the paramedic files a notice of defense, Section 1798.202(d) requires that a hearing be held within 30 days of the filing of the notice of defense. The director of the EMS Authority has 15 days after receipt of the administrative law judge’s proposed decision to make a final decision.

There are other requirements that must be followed pursuant to Section 1798.202; however, the foregoing summarizes the general procedure.