



## DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Communications | EMS/Trauma | Health Information Technology  
Public Health Preparedness & Response | Rural Health

October 15, 2024

Leola Ambulance Service (472)  
PO Box 226  
Leola, SD 57456

Dear Jackie,

In accordance with South Dakota Codified Law Chapter 34-11-2 (4), licensed ambulance services are required to have a medical director unless a hardship exemption has been granted.

The department shall approve a hardship exemption if an ambulance service, per Administrative Rule 44:05:07:02, can:

1. Demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that no physician who is within a fifty-mile radius of the ambulance service coverage area and credentialed to work at the primary receiving facility for the ambulance service is available and willing to serve as the medical director of the ambulance service for a fee that is less than five percent of the ambulance service's annual budget; and
2. Provides documentation that the program director selected has:
  - a. A minimum of two years of clinical experience as a physician assistant or nurse practitioner;
  - b. Agreed, in writing, to be responsible for the supervision and healthcare direction of the ambulance service; and
  - c. Attested to having reviewed and to understanding the *Introduction to Rural EMS Healthcare Direction in South Dakota* document on the department website.

Our office received your request for a hardship exemption on October 15, 2024. Upon review we determined you have met the requirements for a hardship exemption. Shantel Schumack – PA will be noted as your program director on record for a period of one year from today's date (October 15, 2025).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at [marty.link@state.sd.us](mailto:marty.link@state.sd.us).

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marty Link'.

Marty Link  
Administrator Office of EMS and Trauma  
SD Department of Health