

ORDINANCE 2008-14

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT TO THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL FOR THE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RENDERED BY THE MOUNT LAUREL EMS

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Laurel, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Emergency Medical Services and Charges

- 1.1 Emergency Medical Services Provided.** The Township of Mount Laurel provides emergency medical services through the Mount Laurel EMS (a department of the Township of Mount Laurel) to citizens and visitors of the Township of Mount Laurel on a 24-hour basis throughout the year to the extent that such resources are available.
- 1.2 No Denial or Delay of Service.** All persons needing Mount Laurel EMS services within the Township of Mount Laurel shall be serviced to the extent that such services are available without discrimination on any basis, and without respect to residency, ability to pay, or any other factor. No person located within Mount Laurel Township at the time emergency medical services are needed shall be denied available service, when such services are available. There shall be no delay in providing available service due to Mount Laurel EMS billing.
- 1.3 Maintenance of Service Records.** Mount Laurel Township, through the Mount Laurel EMS and a third-party billing agent (retained by Mount Laurel Township for purposes of seeking payment for the provision of EMS emergency services), shall maintain accurate records of all Mount Laurel EMS request for service, service calls, and services approved by the Mount Laurel EMS. Said records shall include pertinent information about the general nature of the call and shall identify the complete name, mailing address, place of domicile, location and telephone numbers of all persons requesting and receiving Mount Laurel EMS services, as well as all pertinent and available insurance information.
- 1.4 Billings to Insurance Companies and/or Persons Served Emergency Medical Services.** The Township of Mount Laurel shall contract with a third-party billing agent for the collection of payment for services rendered by the Mount Laurel EMS services. Said bill shall be issued to the insurance company for the person served, if any, or directly to the person served if insurance coverage is not available. Fees to be charged for Mount Laurel EMS services shall be as follows:
- A.** \$550 for ambulance transportation;

- B. \$12 per loaded mile for Basic Life Support (BLS) mileage;
- C. \$75 fee for oxygen administration;
- D. \$75 for Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) pads; and
- E. \$25 for cervical collars.

1.5 Payment for Emergency Medical Services. Persons receiving a bill for Mount Laurel EMS services shall: (a) make payment to Mount Laurel Township third-party billing agent within 30 days, or (b) provide proof that they have submitted a claim to their insurance carrier for payment within 30 days of receipt of request of a bill. These provisions shall be subject to the following:

- i. Persons receiving Mount Laurel EMS service who have health insurance to cover ambulance and emergency medical services are expected to cooperate with Mount Laurel Township's third-party billing agent to secure full payment for services rendered.
- ii. In the event the health insurance company of a taxpayer or domiciled resident does not pay the bill in full, the Township of Mount Laurel will accept such partial payment to the extent on the insured's policy limits, including deductible and co-insurance requirements, as payment in full.
- iii. In the event a taxpayer or domiciled resident of the Township of Mount Laurel does not have health insurance, payment shall not be required.
- iv. Due to the time requirements for the preparation and processing of insurance claims, interest shall not be charged on Mount Laurel EMS billings.
- v. After providing emergency medical services, the Mount Laurel EMS shall transmit all pertinent billing information to Mount Laurel Township's third-party billing agent for collection as set forth in subsection vi below. The third-party billing agent shall be responsible for receipt of payment and proper recordkeeping of its collections as provided in its Contract with the Township of Mount Laurel. Payments received by third-party billing agent shall, thereafter, be transmitted electronically to a designated account of the Township of Mount Laurel to be administered by the Mount

Laurel Township Chief Financial Officer (CFO). In addition, the third-party billing agent shall simultaneously transmit a transport report to the Mount Laurel EMS for its review and approval and transport copy of the Township CFO. The Mount Laurel EMS shall prepare a reconciliation report and shall monitor the operations of the third-party billing agent, including billing activities and receipt of funds.

- vi. The third-party billing agent shall be responsible for the initial billing and two follow-up billings. Costs associated with the third-party reimbursement requests shall be based solely on a percent of reimbursement collections as provided in its Contract with the Township of Mount Laurel. After three attempts to collect said claim, the third-party billing agency shall notify the Township of Mount Laurel and relinquish rights to that billing, unless otherwise directed by the Township Manager. The Township of Mount Laurel shall turn said delinquent accounts over to a collection agency that will be compensated on a percent of cash collections of the delinquent accounts. The Township of Mount Laurel reserves the right to determine that a bill is uncollectible and should be written off.

1.6 Definitions. For the purposes of Emergency Medical Service charges, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) **“Taxpayer”** shall mean any individual listed on the deed of ownership of any property located within the municipal boundaries of the Township of Mount Laurel and their dependents as defined in Section C below. In the case of corporation, partnership, only those individuals retaining a twenty-five percent (25%) or greater ownership shall be considered a taxpayer. For the purpose of determining a twenty-five percent (25%) or greater ownership, adult married or civil union partners may combine their ownership. Dependent as defined in paragraph c below shall be considered a taxpayer.
- b) **“Domiciled Resident”** shall mean any individual whose legal domicile is within the Township of Mount Laurel. Verification of domicile shall be based shall be based on voter registration, a State of New Jersey Driver’s license, proof of filing a State of New Jersey income tax return from a Mount Laurel Township address or other proofs accepted under federal guidelines.
- c) **“Dependent”** shall mean:

- i) Any individual who is the spouse or an unemancipated child (natural, adopted or step-child) of a taxpayer or domiciled resident as defined in paragraphs a and b above;
- ii) Any unemancipated child for whom the taxpayer or year-round resident has been appointed legal guardian;
- iii) Any individual who resides in a permanent domicile of the taxpayer or domiciled resident and is claimed as a dependent for Federal Income Tax purposes; or
- iv) Any individual who resides in the permanent domicile of the taxpayer or domiciled resident, and who is deemed to be a dependent under the health insurance policy of the taxpayer or domiciled resident.

SECTION 2.

All ordinances or portions thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 3.

If any portion of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remaining portions of the Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4.

This Ordinance shall take effect in the time and manner prescribed by law.