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Sequence Number: 02-15-26
 Notice ID(s): 4248
 File Date: 2/18/2026

Notice of Rulemaking Hearing

Hearings will be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. § 4-5-204. For questions and copies of the notice, contact the person listed below.

Agency/Board/Commission:	Board of Medical Examiners
Division:	
Contact Person:	Francine Baca-Chavez, Deputy General Counsel Grayson Carter Assistant Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
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Any Individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in these proceedings (to review these filings) and may require aid to facilitate such participation should contact the following at least 10 days prior to the hearing:

ADA Contact:	ADA Coordinator
Address:	710 James Robertson Parkway Andrew Johnson Building, 5 th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone:	(615) 253-5604
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Hearing Location(s) (for additional locations, copy and paste table)

Address 1:	Metro Center
Address 2:	665 Mainstream Drive, Iris Conference Room
City:	Nashville, Tennessee
Zip:	37228
Hearing Date:	04/13/2026
Hearing Time:	12:00 P.M. <input type="checkbox"/> _X_ CST/CDT <input type="checkbox"/> __ EST/EDT

Additional Hearing Information:

Join from the webinar link
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Revision Type (check all that apply):

Amendment

New

Repeal

Rule(s) (ALL chapters and rules contained in filing must be listed here. If needed, copy and paste additional tables to accommodate multiple chapters. Please make sure that **ALL** new rule and repealed rule numbers are listed in the chart below. Please enter only **ONE** Rule Number/Rule Title per row)

Chapter Number	Chapter Title
0880-15	General Rules and Regulations Governing Anesthesiologist Assistants
Rule Number	Rule Title
0880-15-.01	Fees
0880-15-.02	Licensure Requirements
0880-15-.03	Licensure Process – Anesthesiologist Assistants
0880-15-.04	Maintaining Licensure, Renewal, Retirement, and Reinstatement
0880-15-.05	Temporary Licensure Qualifications
0880-15-.06	Retirement and Reinstatement
0880-15-.07	Supervision of Anesthesiologist Assistants
0880-15-.08	Continuing Education
0880-15-.09	Grounds for Discipline
0880-15-.10	Disclosure of Licensure Status

Chapter 0880-15
General Rules and Regulations Governing Anesthesiologist Assistants
New Chapter

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- 0880-15-.05 Temporary Licensure Qualifications
- 0880-15-.06 Retirement and Reinstatement
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- 0880-15-.08 Continuing Education
- 0880-15-.09 Grounds for Discipline
- 0880-15-.10 Disclosure of Licensure Status

Rule 0880-15-.01 Fees is a new rule. All subsequent rules, and references thereto, are renumbered accordingly.

(1)	Application Fee	\$300.00
(2)	Temporary License Application Fee	\$300.00
(3)	Licensure Renewal Fee	\$150.00
(4)	Late Licensure Renewal Fee	\$100.00
(5)	Duplicate License Fee	\$25.00
(6)	License Conversion Fee	\$50.00
(7)	Annual State Regulatory Fee- to be paid by all licensees upon application	\$5.00 (\$10.00 biennially)

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.02 Licensure Requirements is a new rule.

To practice in Tennessee as an anesthesiologist assistant or use the title or represent that the person is a certified anesthesiologist assistant, anesthesiologist assistant, or use the abbreviations “C.A.A.” or “A.A.” a person must possess a lawfully issued license from the Board. This section does not apply to a person who is enrolled in an anesthesiologist assistant education program approved by the Board.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102, 63-21-103, and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.03 Licensure Process - Anesthesiologist Assistants is a new rule.

The Board in its discretion may issue licensure according to the following criteria, process, and qualifications:

- (1) Qualifications for licensure. To practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee a person must meet the following requirements:
 - (a) An applicant shall obtain an application form from the Board Administrative Office or from the Board's website, respond truthfully and completely to every question or request for information contained in the

form, and submit it along with all documentation and fees required by the form and this rule to the Board's Administrative Office.

- (b) An applicant shall cause to be submitted the equivalent of a Tennessee Certificate of Endorsement (verification of licensure/certification/registration) from each licensing board of each state or county in which the applicant holds or has ever held a license/certificate/registration to practice any profession that indicates the applicant holds or held an active license/certificate/registration and whether it is in good standing presently or was at the time it became inactive. It is the applicant's responsibility to request this information be sent directly from each such licensing board to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (c) An applicant shall submit proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103.
 - (d) An applicant shall submit a clear and recognizable, recently taken, bust photograph which shows the full head, face forward from at least the top of the shoulders up.
 - (e) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of successful completion of an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or its predecessor or successor organization. A copy of the applicant's diploma shall be submitted as evidence of satisfactory completion.
 - (f) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of current certification by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) or its successor organization and shall have successfully completed the National Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants as administered by the NCCAA. Applicants shall have verification of passage of the certifying examination and active certification submitted to the Board directly from the NCCAA.
 - (g) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of ACLS certification.
 - (h) An applicant shall submit the application fee and state regulatory fee as provided by Rule 0880-15-.01.
 - (i) An applicant shall cause the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials.
 - (j) An applicant shall submit two letters of reference from the applicant's supervising anesthesiologists or for recent graduates, from the director of the applicant's training program or faculty anesthesiologist addressing the applicant's clinical skills and ability. Each letter must be addressed to the Board and must have been written no more than six months prior to the filing of the application for licensure.
- (2) Review and decisions for licensure shall be governed as follows:
- (a) The Board's administrative staff shall determine when an application file is complete.
 - (b) If an application is incomplete when received by the Board's Administrative Office, the applicant shall be notified of the information required. The applicant shall cause the requested information to be received by the Board's Administrative Office on or before the ninetieth (90th) day after the initial letter notifying the applicant of the required information is sent. If requested information is not timely received, the application file shall be closed, and the applicant notified that the Board will not consider licensure until a new application is received.
 - (c) If a completed application is denied, conditioned, or restricted by the Board, a notification of denial shall be sent by the Board Administrative Office by certified mail, return receipt requested, which shall contain the specific authority for the denial. The applicant is not entitled to a contested case hearing. If the applicant believes that the denial was in error, the applicant may request, in writing within 30 days of receipt of the denial, to appear before the Board for an interview.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102, 63-21-103, 63-21-105, and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.04 Maintaining Licensure, Renewal, Retirement, and Reinstatement is a new rule.

- (1) Anesthesiologist assistants holding a full license must renew their license to be able to legally continue to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee. Once issued a full license can be renewed every two years. License renewal is governed by the following:
 - (a) The due date for licensure renewal is its expiration date, which is the last day of the month in which a licensee's birthday falls pursuant to the Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Health-Related Board's (Division) "biennial birthdate renewal system" contained in Rule 1200-10-01-.10.
 - (b) Methods of Renewal- Licensees may accomplish renewal by one of the following methods:
 1. Internet Renewals- Individuals may apply for renewal and pay the necessary fees via the Internet. The application to renew can be accessed at the Board's website.
 2. Paper Renewals- Licensees who did not opt in to receive Board communication via email will be mailed an application at their last known address prior to the expiration date of their current license. Failure to receive such notification does not relieve the individual of the responsibility of timely meeting all requirements for renewal. To be eligible for renewal a licensee must submit to the Division on or before the licensee's expiration date the following:
 - (i) A completed and signed renewal application form.
 - (ii) The renewal and state regulatory fees as provide in Rule 0880-15-.01.
 - (iii) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization.
 - (c) Any renewal application received after the expiration date but before the last day of the month following the expiration date must be accompanied by the Late Renewal Fee provided in Rule 0880-15-.01.
 - (d) The license of any individual who fails to comply with the licensure renewal rules and notifications sent to them concerning failure to timely renew shall have to reinstate their license.
 - (e) Anyone submitting a signed renewal form, electronically or otherwise, which is found to be fraudulent or untrue may be subject to disciplinary action.
 - (f) Any licensee who receives notice of failure to timely renew pursuant to Rule 1200-10-01-.10, and who, on or before the last day of the month following the month in which the license expires, executes and files in the Board's Administrative Office an affidavit of retirement pursuant to paragraph (2) of this rule may have their license retired effective on their licensure expiration date.
- (2) Licensure Retirement.
 - (a) License holders who wish to retain their license but not be required to comply with the licensure renewal process may do so by complying with the following:
 1. Obtain from, complete, and submit to the Board Administrative Office, an affidavit of retirement form.
 2. Submit any documentation which may be required by the form to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (b) Upon successful application for retirement of licensure with completion and receipt of all proper documentation to the Board's satisfaction, the Board shall register the license as retired. Any person who has a retired license may not practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee.
- (3) Reinstatement. Any license holder whose license has been retired or processed for failure to timely renew may re-enter active practice by doing the following:
 - (a) Submit a request for a reinstatement application to the Board's Administrative Office; and

- (b) Fully complete and submit the Board's reinstatement application along with payment of one of the following:
 - 1. For those reinstating a retired license, the license renewal fee.
 - 2. For those who are reinstating a license for failure to timely renew, all past due renewal fees and the late renewal fee.
 - (c) To reinstate an expired license, submit, along with the Board's reinstatement application, documentation of successful completion of the continuing education requirements provided in Rule 0880-15-.08 for all the calendar years (January 1- December 31) that the license was expired that precede the calendar year during which the reinstatement is requested; or
 - (d) To reinstate a retired license, submit, along with the Board's reinstatement application, documentation of successful completion of twenty (20) hours of continuing education as provided in Rule 0880-15-.08, during the two (2) calendar years (January 1 – December 31) that precede the calendar year during which the reinstatement is requested.
 - (e) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization will be considered sufficient proof of the required continuing education hours for the reinstatement of an expired or retired license.
 - (f) If requested, after review by the Board, a designated Board member, or the Board's consultant, appear before either the Board, another Board member, or the Board Designee for an interview regarding continued competence in the event of licensure retirement, administrative revocation, or other practice inactivity in excess of one year, and meet such other requirements the Board feels is necessary to establish current levels of competency.
- (4) Renewal issuance and reinstatement decisions pursuant to this Rule may be made administratively subject to review by the Board, any Board member, or the Board designee.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.05 Temporary Licensure Qualifications is a new rule.

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion, issue a temporary license to an applicant who meets the qualifications for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant, except for having successfully completing the National Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants as administered by the NCCAA.
 - (a) An applicant shall obtain an application form from the Board Administrative Office or from the Board's website, respond truthfully and completely to every question or request for information contained in the form, and submit it along with all documentation and fees required by the form and this rule to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (b) An applicant shall cause to be submitted the equivalent of a Tennessee Certificate of Endorsement (verification of licensure/certification/registration) from each licensing board of each state or county in which the applicant holds or has ever held a license/certificate/registration to practice any profession that indicates the applicant holds or held an active license/certificate/registration and whether it is in good standing presently or was at the time it became inactive. It is the applicant's responsibility to request this information be sent directly from each such licensing board to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (c) An applicant shall submit proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103.
 - (d) An applicant shall submit a clear and recognizable, recently taken, bust photograph which shows the full head, face forward from at least the top of the shoulders up.
 - (e) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of successful completion of an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or its

predecessor or successor organization. A copy of the applicant's diploma shall be submitted as evidence of satisfactory completion.

- (f) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of ACLS certification.
- (g) An applicant shall submit the application fee and state regulatory fee as provided by Rule 0880-02-.02.
- (h) An applicant shall cause the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials.
- (i) An applicant shall submit two letters of reference from the applicant's supervising anesthesiologists or for recent graduates, from the director of the applicant's training program or faculty anesthesiologist addressing the applicant's clinical skills and ability. Each letter must be addressed to the Board and must have been written no more than six months prior to the filing of the application for licensure.
- (j) Application decisions shall be governed by Rule 0880-15-.02.
- (k) If a temporary license is issued:
 - 1. The temporary licensee shall take the next available certification examination.
 - 2. The temporary license is valid for up to one year from the date issued.
 - 3. There shall be no independent unsupervised practice by an anesthesiologist assistant who is issued a temporary license. The supervision of anesthesiologist assistants is governed by Rule 0880-15-.07.
- (l) The temporary license may be converted to a full license by:
 - 1. Submitting an application to the Board's Administrative Office and paying the license conversion fee and state regulatory fee;
 - 2. Causing verification of passage of the certifying examination and active certification submitted to the Board directly from the NCCAA;
 - 3. Causing the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials if the last criminal background check is older than six months;
 - 4. Submitting proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103 and,
 - 5. Sufficient proof that the temporary licensee is in good standing at the time of application for a full license. Good standing means having no formal discipline or open investigations on the temporary license.
- (m) The temporary license shall automatically expire upon the issuance of a full license.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-103 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.06 Scope of Practice is a new rule.

- (1) An anesthesiologist assistant may assist in the practice of anesthesia only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist in a facility licensed pursuant to Title 68 Chapter 11. The anesthesiologist assistant may perform only those duties and responsibilities delegated to the anesthesiologist assistant by the supervising anesthesiologist.
- (2) The practice of the anesthesiologist assistant must not exceed the anesthesiologist assistant's education and training, and the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist. A medical care task assigned by the

supervising anesthesiologist to the anesthesiologist assistant must not be delegated by the anesthesiologist assistant to another person.

- (3) No anesthesiologist assistant shall practice without a supervising anesthesiologist or in any location where a supervising anesthesiologist is not immediately available for consultation, assistance and intervention within the same facility. Under so circumstances should a CRNA be authorized to train or supervise licensed anesthesiologist assistants or persons enrolled in an anesthesiologist assistant education program approved by the board.
- (4) The scope of practice for an anesthesiologist assistant shall be determined by the credentialing procedures and bylaws of the facility in which the anesthesiologist assistant practices and be consistent with the supervising agreement with the supervising anesthesiologist, T.C.A. Section 63-21-101 et. seq., these rules, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rules. Duties of an anesthesiologist assistant may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present that history to the anesthesiologist who must conduct a pre-anesthesia interview and evaluation sufficient to confirm the anesthesiologist assistant's evaluation. The supervising anesthesiologist must cosign any evaluation or progress notes written by the anesthesiologist assistant within twenty-four (24) hours;
 - (b) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the systems and monitors in consultation with the supervising anesthesiologist;
 - (c) Assist the supervising anesthesiologist with the implementation of medically accepted monitoring techniques;
 - (d) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including intubation of the trachea and performing ventilatory support;
 - (e) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and adjust vasoactive infusions;
 - (f) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory drugs;
 - (g) Perform epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures as long as the supervising anesthesiologist is immediately available to assist, intervene or take over the procedure if needed;
 - (h) Administer blood, blood products, and supportive fluids;
 - (i) Support life functions during anesthesia health care, including induction and intubation procedures, the use of appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of fluid, electrolyte, and blood component balances;
 - (j) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other forms of therapy;
 - (k) Participate in management of the patient while in the post anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of any supporting fluids or drugs; and,
 - (l) Place special peripheral and central venous and arterial lines for blood sampling and monitoring as appropriate.
 - (m) An anesthesiologist assistant may not prescribe, order, or compound any controlled substance, legend drug, or medical device. An anesthesiologist assistant may not dispense sample drugs to patients. Nothing prohibits an anesthesiologist assistant from administering legend drugs or controlled substances; intravenous drugs, fluids, or blood products; or inhalation or other anesthetic agents to patients which are ordered by the supervising anesthesiologist and administered while under the direct supervision of the supervising anesthesiologist.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-104 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.07 Supervision of Anesthesiologist Assistants is a new rule.

- (1) A supervising anesthesiologist shall supervise an anesthesiologist assistant within the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth in a supervising agreement with the anesthesiologist assistant. Supervision requires the availability of an anesthesiologist who can delegate, coordinate, direct, consult, or oversee the implementation of the anesthesiologist's intentions within the same facility.
- (2) A supervising anesthesiologist must be immediately available to the anesthesiologist assistant such that the supervising anesthesiologist is able to intervene if needed. A supervising anesthesiologist is considered immediately available if he/she is physically located within the same facility as the anesthesiologist assistant and not otherwise occupied in a way that prevents him/her from immediately conducting hands-on intervention, if needed.
- (3) A supervising anesthesiologist shall personally participate in the most demanding procedures in the anesthesia plan, which shall include induction and emergence.
- (4) A supervising anesthesiologist shall be responsible for pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care and is liable for any act or omission of an anesthesiologist assistant acting under the supervising anesthesiologist's supervision and control.
- (5) A supervising anesthesiologist shall be board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology or be board eligible, must hold an active, unrestricted and unencumbered license from the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination and have an active practice in the medical specialty of anesthesiology.
- (6) A supervising anesthesiologist may supervise up to four anesthesiologist assistants at one time.
- (7) Prior to practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant, he/she must have entered into a supervisory agreement with a supervising anesthesiologist. The supervising agreement shall at a minimum:
 - (a) Delineate the services that the anesthesiologist assistant is authorized to provide and the manner in which the anesthesiologist will supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;
 - (b) Include the method and frequency of review of the anesthesiologist assistant's practice activities;
 - (c) Be reviewed at least annually and revised as the supervising anesthesiologist deems necessary;
 - (d) Be signed and dated by the supervising anesthesiologist and anesthesiologist assistant prior to implementation; and,
 - (e) Contain the mechanisms for evaluation of serious or significant adverse outcomes to a patient(s) and/or deviations from the standard of care.
 - (f) An anesthesiologist assistant shall have a designated supervising anesthesiologist and shall notify the Board of the name address, and license number of their supervising anesthesiologist.
- (8) An anesthesiologist assistant shall maintain a copy of the supervising agreement either on paper or electronically at the anesthesiologist assistant's practice locations and make the supervising agreement available upon request by the Board or an authorized agent of the Board.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-104 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.08 Continuing Education is a new rule.

- (1) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization will be considered sufficient proof of the required continuing education hours

- (2) Acceptable continuing education includes continuing education hours accredited by the NCCAA, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, or the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants.
- (3) Proof of compliance documentation of all continuing education hours must be retained for a period of four (4) years from the end of the calendar year in which the continuing education was acquired. The documentation must be produced for inspection and verification, if requested by the Division.
- (4) Documentation verifying completion of the continuing education hours may consist of any one of the following:
 - (a) Original certificates or photocopies of original certificates from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours;
 - (b) Original letters or photocopies of original letters from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours; and,
 - (c) Transcripts from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.09 Grounds for Discipline is a new rule.

The Board may deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend, or restrict a license or take other disciplinary action, including imposing conditions or restrictions on a license. The grounds upon which the Board shall exercise such power include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct;
- (2) Habitual intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs or the use of intoxicating liquors, narcotics, controlled substances, controlled substance analogues or other drugs or stimulants in such manner as to adversely affect the person's ability to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (3) Conviction of a felony, conviction of any offense under state or federal laws relative to the duties and responsibilities of an anesthesiologist assistant, conviction of any offense involving moral turpitude, or being required to register as a sexual offender or violent sexual offender as defined by title 40, chapter 39, part 2.
- (4) Making false statements or representations, being guilty of fraud or deceit in obtaining admission to practice or being guilty of fraud or deceit in the course of performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (5) Gross health care liability or a pattern of continued or repeated health care liability, ignorance, negligence or incompetence in the course of performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (6) Violation or attempted violation, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter or, any lawful order of the board issued pursuant thereto or any criminal statute of this state;
- (7) Disciplinary action against a person licensed to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant by another state or territory of the United States for any acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for discipline of a person licensed in this state. A certified copy of the initial or final order or other equivalent document memorializing the disciplinary action from the disciplining state or territory shall constitute prima facie evidence of violation of this section and be sufficient grounds upon which to deny, restrict or condition licensure or renewal and/or discipline a person licensed in this state;
- (8) Performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant when mentally or physically unable to safely do so;
- (9) Performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant under a false or assumed name, or the impersonation of another practitioner;

- (10) Obtaining or attempting to obtain any fee, charge, or other compensation by fraud, deception, or misrepresentation;
- (11) Practicing beyond the scope of an anesthesiologist assistant; or,
- (12) Delegating a medical care task assigned to the anesthesiologist assistant by the supervising anesthesiologist to another person.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

Rule 0880-15-.10 Disclosure of Licensure Status is a new rule.

All licensed anesthesiologist assistants shall wear a photo identification name tag during all patient encounters that shall include a recent photograph of the licensee, the licensee's full name, and identifies the licensee as an anesthesiologist assistant. The name tag shall be of sufficient size and be worn in a conspicuous manner so as to be visible and apparent.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

I certify that the information included in this filing is an accurate and complete representation of the intent and scope of rulemaking proposed by the agency.

February 18, 2026

Date: _____

Signature: Francine Baca-Chavez

Name of Officer: Francine Baca-Chavez

Title of Officer: Deputy General Counsel, Department of Health

Department of State Use Only

Filed with the Department of State on: 2/18/2026

Tre Hargett
Tre Hargett
Secretary of State

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Feb 18 2026, 2:43 pm

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RULES
OF
THE TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

CHAPTER 0880-15
GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS

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0880-15-.01 FEES.

<u>(1)</u>	<u>Application Fee</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>(2)</u>	<u>Temporary License Application Fee</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
<u>(3)</u>	<u>Licensure Renewal Fee</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
<u>(4)</u>	<u>Late Licensure Renewal Fee</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<u>(5)</u>	<u>Duplicate License Fee</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>(6)</u>	<u>License Conversion Fee</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<u>(7)</u>	<u>Annual State Regulatory Fee- to be paid by all licensees upon application</u>	<u>\$5.00</u> <u>(\$10.00 biennially)</u>

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.02 LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS. To practice in Tennessee as an anesthesiologist assistant or use the title or represent that the person is a certified anesthesiologist assistant, anesthesiologist assistant, or use the abbreviations "C.A.A." or "A.A." a person must possess a lawfully issued license from the Board. This section does not apply to a person who is enrolled in an anesthesiologist assistant education program approved by the Board.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102, 63-21-103, and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.03 LICENSURE PROCESS - ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS. The Board in its discretion may issue licensure according to the following criteria, process, and qualifications:

(1) Qualifications for licensure. To practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee a person must meet the following requirements:

- (a) An applicant shall obtain an application form from the Board Administrative Office or from the Board's website, respond truthfully and completely to every question or request for information contained in the form, and submit it along with all documentation and fees required by the form and this rule to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (b) An applicant shall cause to be submitted the equivalent of a Tennessee Certificate of Endorsement (verification of licensure/certification/registration) from each licensing board of each state or county in which the applicant holds or has ever held a license/certificate/registration to practice any profession that indicates the applicant holds or held an active license/certificate/registration and whether it is in good standing presently or was at the time it became inactive. It is the applicant's responsibility to request this information be sent directly from each such licensing board to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (c) An applicant shall submit proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103.
 - (d) An applicant shall submit a clear and recognizable, recently taken, bust photograph which shows the full head, face forward from at least the top of the shoulders up.
 - (e) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of successful completion of an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or its predecessor or successor organization. A copy of the applicant's diploma shall be submitted as evidence of satisfactory completion.
 - (f) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of current certification by the National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) or its successor organization and shall have successfully completed the National Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants as administered by the NCCAA. Applicants shall have verification of passage of the certifying examination and active certification submitted to the Board directly from the NCCAA.
 - (g) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of ACLS certification.
 - (h) An applicant shall submit the application fee and state regulatory fee as provided by Rule 0880-15-.01.
 - (i) An applicant shall cause the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials.
 - (j) An applicant shall submit two letters of reference from the applicant's supervising anesthesiologists or for recent graduates, from the director of the applicant's training program or faculty anesthesiologist addressing the applicant's clinical skills and ability. Each letter must be addressed to the Board and must have been written no more than six months prior to the filing of the application for licensure.
- (2) Review and decisions for licensure shall be governed as follows:
- (a) The Board's administrative staff shall determine when an application file is complete.
 - (b) If an application is incomplete when received by the Board's Administrative Office, the applicant shall be notified of the information required. The applicant shall cause the requested information to be received by the Board's Administrative Office on or before the

ninetieth (90th) day after the initial letter notifying the applicant of the required information is sent. If requested information is not timely received, the application file shall be closed, and the applicant notified that the Board will not consider licensure until a new application is received.

- (c) If a completed application is denied, conditioned, or restricted by the Board, a notification of denial shall be sent by the Board Administrative Office by certified mail, return receipt requested, which shall contain the specific authority for the denial. The applicant is not entitled to a contested case hearing. If the applicant believes that the denial was in error, the applicant may request, in writing within 30 days of receipt of the denial, to appear before the Board for an interview.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102, 63-21-103, 63-21-105, and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.04 MAINTAINING LICENSURE, RENEWAL, RETIREMENT, AND REINSTATEMENT.

- (1) Anesthesiologist assistants holding a full license must renew their license to be able to legally continue to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee. Once issued a full license can be renewed every two years. License renewal is governed by the following:

- (a) The due date for licensure renewal is its expiration date, which is the last day of the month in which a licensee's birthday falls pursuant to the Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Health-Related Board's (Division) "biennial birthdate renewal system" contained in Rule 1200-10-01-.10.

- (b) Methods of Renewal- Licensees may accomplish renewal by one of the following methods:

- 1. Internet Renewals- Individuals may apply for renewal and pay the necessary fees via the Internet. The application to renew can be accessed at the Board's website.

- 2. Paper Renewals- Licensees who did not opt in to receive Board communication via email will be mailed an application at their last known address prior to the expiration date of their current license. Failure to receive such notification does not relieve the individual of the responsibility of timely meeting all requirements for renewal. To be eligible for renewal a licensee must submit to the Division on or before the licensee's expiration date the following:

- (i) A completed and signed renewal application form.

- (ii) The renewal and state regulatory fees as provide in Rule 0880-15-.01.

- (iii) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization.

- (c) Any renewal application received after the expiration date but before the last day of the month following the expiration date must be accompanied by the Late Renewal Fee provided in Rule 0880-15-.01.

- (d) The license of any individual who fails to comply with the licensure renewal rules and notifications sent to them concerning failure to timely renew shall have to reinstate their license.

(e) Anyone submitting a signed renewal form, electronically or otherwise, which is found to be fraudulent or untrue may be subject to disciplinary action.

(f) Any licensee who receives notice of failure to timely renew pursuant to Rule 1200-10-01-.10, and who, on or before the last day of the month following the month in which the license expires, executes and files in the Board's Administrative Office an affidavit of retirement pursuant to paragraph (2) of this rule may have their license retired effective on their licensure expiration date.

(2) Licensure Retirement.

(a) License holders who wish to retain their license but not be required to comply with the licensure renewal process may do so by complying with the following:

1. Obtain from, complete, and submit to the Board Administrative Office, an affidavit of retirement form.

2. Submit any documentation which may be required by the form to the Board's Administrative Office.

(b) Upon successful application for retirement of licensure with completion and receipt of all proper documentation to the Board's satisfaction, the Board shall register the license as retired. Any person who has a retired license may not practice as an anesthesiologist assistant in Tennessee.

(3) Reinstatement. Any license holder whose license has been retired or processed for failure to timely renew may re-enter active practice by doing the following:

(a) Submit a request for a reinstatement application to the Board's Administrative Office; and

(b) Fully complete and submit the Board's reinstatement application along with payment of one of the following:

1. For those reinstating a retired license, the license renewal fee.

2. For those who are reinstating a license for failure to timely renew, all past due renewal fees and the late renewal fee.

(c) To reinstate an expired license, submit, along with the Board's reinstatement application, documentation of successful completion of the continuing education requirements provided in Rule 0880-15-.08 for all the calendar years (January 1- December 31) that the license was expired that precede the calendar year during which the reinstatement is requested; or

(d) To reinstate a retired license, submit, along with the Board's reinstatement application, documentation of successful completion of twenty (20) hours of continuing education as provided in Rule 0880-15-.08, during the two (2) calendar years (January 1 – December 31) that precede the calendar year during which the reinstatement is requested.

(e) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization will be considered sufficient proof of the required continuing education hours for the reinstatement of an expired or retired license.

- (f) If requested, after review by the Board, a designated Board member, or the Board's consultant, appear before either the Board, another Board member, or the Board Designee for an interview regarding continued competence in the event of licensure retirement, administrative revocation, or other practice inactivity in excess of one year, and meet such other requirements the Board feels is necessary to establish current levels of competency.
- (4) Renewal issuance and reinstatement decisions pursuant to this Rule may be made administratively subject to review by the Board, any Board member, or the Board designee.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.05 TEMPORARY LICENSURE QUALIFICATIONS.

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion, issue a temporary license to an applicant who meets the qualifications for licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant, except for having successfully completing the National Certifying Examination for Anesthesiologist Assistants as administered by the NCCAA.
 - (a) An applicant shall obtain an application form from the Board Administrative Office or from the Board's website, respond truthfully and completely to every question or request for information contained in the form, and submit it along with all documentation and fees required by the form and this rule to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (b) An applicant shall cause to be submitted the equivalent of a Tennessee Certificate of Endorsement (verification of licensure/certification/registration) from each licensing board of each state or county in which the applicant holds or has ever held a license/certificate/registration to practice any profession that indicates the applicant holds or held an active license/certificate/registration and whether it is in good standing presently or was at the time it became inactive. It is the applicant's responsibility to request this information be sent directly from each such licensing board to the Board's Administrative Office.
 - (c) An applicant shall submit proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103.
 - (d) An applicant shall submit a clear and recognizable, recently taken, bust photograph which shows the full head, face forward from at least the top of the shoulders up.
 - (e) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of successful completion of an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs or its predecessor or successor organization. A copy of the applicant's diploma shall be submitted as evidence of satisfactory completion.
 - (f) An applicant shall submit sufficient evidence of ACLS certification.
 - (g) An applicant shall submit the application fee and state regulatory fee as provided by Rule 0880-02-.02.
 - (h) An applicant shall cause the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials.

(i) An applicant shall submit two letters of reference from the applicant's supervising anesthesiologists or for recent graduates, from the director of the applicant's training program or faculty anesthesiologist addressing the applicant's clinical skills and ability. Each letter must be addressed to the Board and must have been written no more than six months prior to the filing of the application for licensure.

(j) Application decisions shall be governed by Rule 0880-15-.02.

(k) If a temporary license is issued:

1. The temporary licensee shall take the next available certification examination.
2. The temporary license is valid for up to one year from the date issued.
3. There shall be no independent unsupervised practice by an anesthesiologist assistant who is issued a temporary license. The supervision of anesthesiologist assistants is governed by Rule 0880-15-.07.

(l) The temporary license may be converted to a full license by:

1. Submitting an application to the Board's Administrative Office and paying the license conversion fee and state regulatory fee;
2. Causing verification of passage of the certifying examination and active certification submitted to the Board directly from the NCCAA;
3. Causing the results of a criminal background check to be submitted to the Board's Administrative Office directly from the vendor identified in the Board's licensure application materials if the last criminal background check is older than six months;
4. Submitting proof of United States citizenship or of being lawfully present in the United States pursuant to T.C.A. Section 4-58-103 and,
5. Sufficient proof that the temporary licensee is in good standing at the time of application for a full license. Good standing means having no formal discipline or open investigations on the temporary license.

(m) The temporary license shall automatically expire upon the issuance of a full license.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-103 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.06 SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

(1) An anesthesiologist assistant may assist in the practice of anesthesia only under the supervision of an anesthesiologist in a facility licensed pursuant to Title 68 Chapter 11. The anesthesiologist assistant may perform only those duties and responsibilities delegated to the anesthesiologist assistant by the supervising anesthesiologist.

(2) The practice of the anesthesiologist assistant must not exceed the anesthesiologist assistant's education and training, and the scope of practice of the supervising anesthesiologist. A medical care task assigned by the supervising anesthesiologist to the anesthesiologist assistant must not be delegated by the anesthesiologist assistant to another person.

- (3) No anesthesiologist assistant shall practice without a supervising anesthesiologist or in any location where a supervising anesthesiologist is not immediately available for consultation, assistance and intervention within the same facility. Under so circumstances should a CRNA be authorized to train or supervise licensed anesthesiologist assistants or persons enrolled in an anesthesiologist assistant education program approved by the board.
- (4) The scope of practice for an anesthesiologist assistant shall be determined by the credentialing procedures and bylaws of the facility in which the anesthesiologist assistant practices and be consistent with the supervising agreement with the supervising anesthesiologist, T.C.A. Section 63-21-101 et. seq., these rules, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rules. Duties of an anesthesiologist assistant may include, but are not limited to the following:
- (a) Obtain a comprehensive patient history and present that history to the anesthesiologist who must conduct a pre-anesthesia interview and evaluation sufficient to confirm the anesthesiologist assistant's evaluation. The supervising anesthesiologist must cosign any evaluation or progress notes written by the anesthesiologist assistant within twenty-four (24) hours;
 - (b) Pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems and monitor, obtain, and interpret information from the systems and monitors in consultation with the supervising anesthesiologist;
 - (c) Assist the supervising anesthesiologist with the implementation of medically accepted monitoring techniques;
 - (d) Establish basic and advanced airway interventions, including intubation of the trachea and performing ventilatory support;
 - (e) Administer intermittent vasoactive drugs and start and adjust vasoactive infusions;
 - (f) Administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs, and accessory drugs;
 - (g) Perform epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures as long as the supervising anesthesiologist is immediately available to assist, intervene or take over the procedure if needed;
 - (h) Administer blood, blood products, and supportive fluids;
 - (i) Support life functions during anesthesia health care, including induction and intubation procedures, the use of appropriate mechanical supportive devices, and the management of fluid, electrolyte, and blood component balances;
 - (j) Recognize and take appropriate corrective action for abnormal patient responses to anesthesia, adjunctive medication, or other forms of therapy;
 - (k) Participate in management of the patient while in the post anesthesia recovery area, including the administration of any supporting fluids or drugs; and,
 - (l) Place special peripheral and central venous and arterial lines for blood sampling and monitoring as appropriate.
 - (m) An anesthesiologist assistant may not prescribe, order, or compound any controlled substance, legend drug, or medical device. An anesthesiologist assistant may not dispense sample drugs to patients. Nothing prohibits an anesthesiologist assistant from

administering legend drugs or controlled substances; intravenous drugs, fluids, or blood products; or inhalation or other anesthetic agents to patients which are ordered by the supervising anesthesiologist and administered while under the direct supervision of the supervising anesthesiologist.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-104 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.07 SUPERVISION OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS.

- (1) A supervising anesthesiologist shall supervise an anesthesiologist assistant within the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth in a supervising agreement with the anesthesiologist assistant. Supervision requires the availability of an anesthesiologist who can delegate, coordinate, direct, consult, or oversee the implementation of the anesthesiologist's intentions within the same facility.
- (2) A supervising anesthesiologist must be immediately available to the anesthesiologist assistant such that the supervising anesthesiologist is able to intervene if needed. A supervising anesthesiologist is considered immediately available if he/she is physically located within the same facility as the anesthesiologist assistant and not otherwise occupied in a way that prevents him/her from immediately conducting hands-on intervention, if needed.
- (3) A supervising anesthesiologist shall personally participate in the most demanding procedures in the anesthesia plan, which shall include induction and emergence.
- (4) A supervising anesthesiologist shall be responsible for pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care and is liable for any act or omission of an anesthesiologist assistant acting under the supervising anesthesiologist's supervision and control.
- (5) A supervising anesthesiologist shall be board certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology or be board eligible, must hold an active, unrestricted and unencumbered license from the Board of Medical Examiners or Board of Osteopathic Examination and have an active practice in the medical specialty of anesthesiology.
- (6) A supervising anesthesiologist may supervise up to four anesthesiologist assistants at one time.
- (7) Prior to practicing as an anesthesiologist assistant, he/she must have entered into a supervisory agreement with a supervising anesthesiologist. The supervising agreement shall at a minimum:
 - (a) Delineate the services that the anesthesiologist assistant is authorized to provide and the manner in which the anesthesiologist will supervise the anesthesiologist assistant;
 - (b) Include the method and frequency of review of the anesthesiologist assistant's practice activities;
 - (c) Be reviewed at least annually and revised as the supervising anesthesiologist deems necessary;
 - (d) Be signed and dated by the supervising anesthesiologist and anesthesiologist assistant prior to implementation; and,
 - (e) Contain the mechanisms for evaluation of serious or significant adverse outcomes to a patient(s) and/or deviations from the standard of care.

- (f) An anesthesiologist assistant shall have a designated supervising anesthesiologist and shall notify the Board of the name address, and license number of their supervising anesthesiologist.
- (8) An anesthesiologist assistant shall maintain a copy of the supervising agreement either on paper or electronically at the anesthesiologist assistant's practice locations and make the supervising agreement available upon request by the Board or an authorized agent of the Board.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-104 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.08 CONTINUING EDUCATION.

- (1) Proof of maintaining certification by the NCCAA or its successor organization will be considered sufficient proof of the required continuing education hours
- (2) Acceptable continuing education includes continuing education hours accredited by the NCCAA, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, or the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants.
- (3) Proof of compliance documentation of all continuing education hours must be retained for a period of four (4) years from the end of the calendar year in which the continuing education was acquired. The documentation must be produced for inspection and verification, if requested by the Division.
- (4) Documentation verifying completion of the continuing education hours may consist of any one of the following:
 - (a) Original certificates or photocopies of original certificates from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours;
 - (b) Original letters or photocopies of original letters from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours; and,
 - (c) Transcripts from course providers verifying the licensee's attendance and/or completion of hours.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.09 GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE. The Board may deny, refuse to renew, revoke, suspend, or restrict a license or take other disciplinary action, including imposing conditions or restrictions on a license. The grounds upon which the Board shall exercise such power include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Unprofessional, dishonorable or unethical conduct;
- (2) Habitual intoxication or personal misuse of any drugs or the use of intoxicating liquors, narcotics, controlled substances, controlled substance analogues or other drugs or stimulants in such manner as to adversely affect the person's ability to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (3) Conviction of a felony, conviction of any offense under state or federal laws relative to the duties and responsibilities of an anesthesiologist assistant, conviction of any offense involving moral turpitude, or being required to register as a sexual offender or violent sexual offender as defined by title 40, chapter 39, part 2.

- (4) Making false statements or representations, being guilty of fraud or deceit in obtaining admission to practice or being guilty of fraud or deceit in the course of performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (5) Gross health care liability or a pattern of continued or repeated health care liability, ignorance, negligence or incompetence in the course of performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant;
- (6) Violation or attempted violation, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter or, any lawful order of the board issued pursuant thereto or any criminal statute of this state;
- (7) Disciplinary action against a person licensed to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant by another state or territory of the United States for any acts or omissions that would constitute grounds for discipline of a person licensed in this state. A certified copy of the initial or final order or other equivalent document memorializing the disciplinary action from the disciplining state or territory shall constitute prima facie evidence of violation of this section and be sufficient grounds upon which to deny, restrict or condition licensure or renewal and/or discipline a person licensed in this state;
- (8) Performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant when mentally or physically unable to safely do so;
- (9) Performing the functions and duties of an anesthesiologist assistant under a false or assumed name, or the impersonation of another practitioner;
- (10) Obtaining or attempting to obtain any fee, charge, or other compensation by fraud, deception, or misrepresentation;
- (11) Practicing beyond the scope of an anesthesiologist assistant; or,
- (12) Delegating a medical care task assigned to the anesthesiologist assistant by the supervising anesthesiologist to another person.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.

0880-15-.10 DISCLOSURE OF LICENSURE STATUS - All licensed anesthesiologist assistants shall wear a photo identification name tag during all patient encounters that shall include a recent photograph of the licensee, the licensee's full name, and identifies the licensee as an anesthesiologist assistant. The name tag shall be of sufficient size and be worn in a conspicuous manner so as to be visible and apparent.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 63-21-102 and 63-21-107.