

Many states require school scoliosis screening programs, authorized by specific state laws and regulations. The specific mandates, policies and guidelines are usually available through the departments of health or education, or online.

The Georgia code and legal rules are provided as an example of such laws and regulations.

Georgia General Assembly Code

20-2-772.

(a) In addition to any other requirements of this part, the Department of Public Health is authorized and directed, in cooperation with the State Board of Education, to promulgate rules and regulations to provide for the screening of public school children for scoliosis.

(b) The rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall not require the prior approval of parents or legal guardians of public school children for the screening of such school children for scoliosis. However, such rules and regulations shall provide for advance written notice of the time of such screening to be given to parents and legal guardians of such public school children. If the parent or legal guardian of a child objects to such child being screened for scoliosis, such child shall be exempt from such screening.

Visit legis.ga.gov to view the Georgia General Assembly Code.

Approved April 5, 1983.

Legal Rules Promulgated From the Scoliosis Code

511-5-8-.01 Definitions

Unless a different meaning is required by the context, the following terms as used in these Rules shall have the meaning hereinafter respectively ascribed to them:

- (a) "At Risk Population" means those children who are in the age group 10 through 15 years.
- (b) "Department" means the Georgia Department of Public Health.
- (c) "Health Authority" means the county boards of health or their authorized representatives.
- (d) "School Authority" means the county and municipal boards of education or their authorized representatives.
- (e) "Scoliosis" means a lateral curvature of the spinal column from the mid line that may or may not include rotation or deformity of the vertebrae.
- (f) "Screening Examination" means to pass through a standardized inspection or test approved by the Department.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Definitions" adopted. F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.

511-5-8-.02 Provision for Screening

- (1) The health authority in cooperation with the school authority shall provide screening of public school children in the at risk population.
- (2) Screening shall be offered annually for a minimum of two grades occupied by the at risk population, recognizing that with their earlier maturation females should be screened in early adolescence.
- (3) All children in the at risk population grades selected shall be screened except those children whose parents or legal guardians object in writing to such screening.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Provision for Screening" adopted. F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.

511-5-8-.03 Written Notice

- (1) Parents or legal guardians shall receive written notification from the school authority two weeks prior to the dates on which screening is to occur during the school term.
- (2) If parents or legal guardians object to the screening, they must notify the school authority in writing within five (5) days of having received the screening notification.
- (3) The school authority shall maintain a list of the children's names for whom parents or guardians have filed a written objection and shall make such names known to the health authority.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Written Notice" adopted. F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.

511-5-8-.04 Screening Examinations

- (1) The health authority shall use a standardized inspection or test approved by the Department.
- (2) The health authority shall cause staff who will perform the screening examinations to attend training courses offered by the Department as such attendance is deemed necessary by the health authority.
- (3) Volunteers may be utilized by the health authority to assist in the screening program, provided that such persons successfully complete a training course provided by the health authority. The health authority shall certify such persons to the school authority as authorized to participate in the screening program.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Screening Examinations" adopted. F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.

511-5-8-.05 Screening Process

- (1) The health authority shall cause each eligible child to be screened.
- (2) Children identified as having a possible spinal deformity by volunteers shall be rescreened by the health authority.
- (3) The health authority, at its discretion, may conduct follow-up clinics, utilizing x-ray and physician evaluation.
- (4) Parents or guardians shall be notified solely by the health authority if their child is identified, during the screening process, as having a possible spinal deformity. The health authority shall also recommend to the parents or guardians that they seek further professional attention for the child.
- (5) The health authority shall contact parents or guardians, who have been notified that their child may have a possible spinal deformity, to ascertain the outcome of subsequent evaluations.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Screening Process" adopted. F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.

511-5-8-.06 Records and Reports

- (1) The health authority shall submit or cause to be submitted an annual report to the Department. A copy of the annual report shall be provided to the appropriate school authority. The report shall be on forms provided by the Department.
- (2) The health authority shall maintain the names of children screened and the results of their screening pursuant to the schedules developed under the Georgia Records Act.

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. 31-2A-6, 20-2-772. History: Original Rule entitled "Records and Reports" adopted F. Oct. 15, 2013; eff. Nov. 4, 2013.