

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT**

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**S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S**

**2023 No. 31.**

**THE TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY (POST CRASH EMERGENCY  
CARE) REGULATIONS, 2023**

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# S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

## 2023 No. 31.

### **The Traffic and Road Safety (Post Crash Emergency Care) Regulations, 2023**

*(Under section 178 of the Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998, Cap. 361)*

**IN EXERCISE** of the powers conferred upon the Minister responsible for transport by section 178 of the Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998, these Regulations are made this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

#### **1. Title**

These Regulations may be cited as the Traffic and Road Safety (Post Crash Emergency Care) Regulations, 2023.

#### **2. Interpretation**

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998 Cap. 361;

“bystander” means a person who is near and has access to the scene of the accident;

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner responsible for transport regulation and safety;

“Competent Authority” means the department of transport regulation and safety in the Ministry responsible for transport;

“currency points” has the value assigned to it in the Schedule to these Regulations;

“emergency” means a serious, unexpected or dangerous situation requiring immediate action;

“emergency care” means the evaluation, treatment, observation and care of an accident victim before or during

transportation to a health facility or at a health facility, to avoid death or serious impairment to bodily disability or serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part;

“stabilisation” means the provision of emergency care to prevent an accident victim from having his or her condition deteriorate before he or she can receive definitive treatment.

### **3. Object of Regulations**

The object of these Regulations is to provide for—

- (a) the main action to be taken immediately after a road traffic crash has occurred;
- (b) the key resources and organisations needed for post-crash emergency care;
- (c) the mitigation of the consequences of road crashes and enhancement of the quality of life of people injured in road crashes;
- (d) the duties of bystanders in offering post-crash care; and
- (e) the administering of post-crash care in order to avoid preventable death and disability.

### **4. Assistance to accident patients**

(1) Practicable assistance to injured persons referred to in section 125 (1) of the Act may include—

- (a) calling for help and contacting emergency services;
- (b) taking action to secure the scene of the accident;
- (c) organising people and resources to enable bystanders, medical service providers or police officers to conduct rescue operation;
- (d) administering first aid;
- (e) undertaking measures to stabilize injured persons; or

(f) transporting injured persons to a hospital, clinic or other health facility if no ambulance vehicle is available.

(2) A road user or other person who stops to assist an injured person or administer first aid under subregulation (1), in good faith, is not liable for any civil damage resulting from any act or failure to act.

(3) Subregulation (2), does not prevent—

(a) an injured person or other person authorised under the law, from claiming damages from the person responsible for the accident; or

(b) the prosecution of the traffic offender.

## **5. Duties of bystanders**

(1) Bystanders at the scene of the accident may perform any of the following duties—

(a) contacting emergency services and calling for help;

(b) taking action to secure the scene; including preventing further crashes, preventing harm to rescuers and bystanders and controlling the crowd gathered at the scene;

(c) where applicable, organising people and resources and keeping bystanders away from the injured persons so that helpers can conduct rescue operations, and organising people into groups as follows—

(i) a group for comforting the victims and their friends and their relatives;

(ii) a group for transporting injured persons to hospitals, clinics or other health facilities; and

(iii) a group for administering first aid.

(d) helping to put out any fire;

- (e) administering first aid;
- (f) transporting injured persons to hospitals, clinics or other health facilities if no ambulance is available; or
- (g) any other duty that may be relevant to save the life of injured persons.

(2) A bystander who assists an accident patient or administers first aid under subregulation (1), in good faith is not liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or failure to act to provide or arrange for further medical treatment or care for the injured person.

(3) A bystander who assists an accident patient or administers first aid under subregulation (1), is not entitled to any pay or compensation for performing any duties under these Regulation.

## **6. Administering first aid**

For purposes of administering first aid, a bystander, road user or other person who stops to assist an injured person may administer first aid by—

- (a) resuscitation;
- (b) dressing of wounds; or
- (c) splintage.

## **7. Universal access number**

(1) The Competent Authority shall, in consultation with Uganda Communications Commission, establish and maintain a universal access number as a toll free number for the purposes of communicating a road crash incident to the call and dispatch center established under regulation 9.

(2) The universal access number referred to in subregulation (1), shall be—

- (a) valid throughout the entire country;
- (b) available as a free call from every telephone both landline and mobile telephone;
- (c) easy to remember and dial and in any case not exceed three or four digits;
- (d) linked to a dispatch centre that can rapidly send an equipped ambulance with trained personnel; and
- (e) able to guarantee the confidentiality of the caller.

(3) A person who misuses a universal access number by calling the call and dispatch center to report or communicate any matter that is not related to an accident or for purposes of enforcing these Regulations commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding thirty currency points or imprisonment for two years or both.

#### **8. Display of universal access number**

An owner of a motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant shall, display the universal access number on a visible part of the motor vehicle, trailer or engineering plant, as shall be determined by the Commissioner.

#### **9. Call and dispatch center**

(1) The Competent Authority shall, in consultation with the Ministry responsible for health and the Uganda Police Force, establish and maintain a call and dispatch centre.

(2) The call and dispatch centre referred to in subregulation (1) shall be equipped with—

- (a) a prompt communication system;
- (b) a transport system equipped with ambulances;
- (c) medical equipment and facilities; and
- (d) trained medical staff.

**10. Access to care without regard to ability to pay**

(1) A hospital, clinic or other health facility that offers medical treatment to an accident patient under section 125A of the Act is entitled to payment for the services from the patient, after the patient has stabilised and is out of danger.

(2) The unpaid for medical services under subregulation (1), shall be a debt due, by the patient to the hospital, clinic or other health facility after medical treatment, after the patient has stabilised and is out of danger.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, an injured person is entitled to recover all the expenses and damages incurred as a result of the accident, from the person who caused the accident including medical expenses.

(4) A hospital, clinic or other health facility that refuses or omits to admit an accident patient without proof of financial ability to pay may be deregistered by the Ministry responsible for health or any entity responsible for the registration or licensing of medical facilities.

(5) A medical practitioner in charge of a hospital, clinic or other health facility that refuses or omits to admit an injured person without proof of financial ability to pay, may be subject to disciplinary proceedings by the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council established under the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council Act.

## **SCHEDULE**

*Regulation 2*

### **CURRENCY POINT**

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

**Cross reference**

The Medical and Dental Practitioners Council Act.

GEN. EDWARD KATUMBA WAMALA,  
*Minster of Works and Transport*



