



MEMBER ALERT

Recent Revisions to AED Notices and the School Principal's Responsibility

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

SB 658 – Requires Schools to Meet Specified Notice Requirements if the School Maintains an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on Campus.

Current law exempts from civil liability a person or entity that acquires an AED for emergency use and any person or entity responsible for the site where the AED is located if specified conditions are satisfied, including maintaining and regularly testing the AED and maintaining a written plan that describes the procedures to be followed in case of an emergency that involves AED usage. For public schools (grades K-12) maintaining these specified conditions also require a school principal to:

- Ensure that school administrators and staff annually receive a brochure approved by the American Heart Association or American Red Cross that describes the proper use of an AED;
- Ensure that similar information is posted next to every AED; and
- Designate trained employees who are available to respond to an emergency that may require the use of an AED.

SB 658 – Revisions to the K-12 school provisions *now require* a principal to:

- Ensure that the school administrators and staff annually receive information that describes sudden cardiac arrest, the school's emergency response plan, and the proper use of an AED;
- Ensure that instructions, in no less than 14-point type, AED usage are posted next to every AED;
- Notify school employees on no less than an annual basis as to the location of all AED units on campus.
- A principal is no longer required to designate trained employees who are available to respond to emergencies that may involve an AED. *(These amendments do not prohibit an employee or other person from rendering aid with an AED. Persons who render such aid are exempt from civil liability for emergency aid by the use of an AED rendered in good faith and not for compensation, except if such aid results in personal injury or wrongful death resulting from gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.)*

While California schools are not required to implement AED programs, they are urged to do so. Schools that maintain AEDs on campus should ensure that they comply with SB 658's notification and posting requirements, as well as other AED testing and maintenance requirements as specified in Health and Safety Code section 1797.196. *(SB 658 amends Section 1714.21 of the Civil Code and Section 1797.196 of the Health and Safety Code.)*

PLEASE FORWARD THIS ALERT AS APPROPRIATE

Questions? Contact NBSIA Member Services
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