

Hospices are public agencies or private organization or a subdivision of either which are primarily engaged in providing care to terminally ill individuals. Hospice care is an approach to caring for terminally ill individuals that stresses palliative care (relief of pain and uncomfortable symptoms), as opposed to curative care. In addition to meeting the patient's medical needs, hospice care addresses the physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of the patient, as well as the psychosocial needs of the patient's family/caregiver. The emphasis of the hospice program is on keeping the hospice patient at home with family and friends as long as possible. Although some hospices are located at a hospital, nursing home, or home health agency, all hospices must be separately licensed.

Exemptions:

Any hospice operated by the federal government.

Type Regulation:

State: A hospice must obtain a license.

Federal: A hospice choosing to participate in the federal programs must be certified.

Legal Authority:

O.C.G.A Sec. 31-7-170 et seq Hospice Care
[Official Code of Georgia Annotated](#)

Rules:

State:

- [Rules and Regulations for Hospices](#), Chapter 290-9-43, effective August 16, 2005
- [Enforcement of Licensing Requirements](#), Chapter 290-1-6, effective August 16, 1993

Federal:

[Hospice Care](#), CFR Title 42, Chapter IV, Part 418 (for those facilities that chose to be certified) .To obtain more information about federal certification requirements, please visit the CMS website, [Hospice Service Center](#).

Fees:

- License: No charge