

## WE ARE NOT THE STATE OF NC – WE ARE NC LICENSED CCH INSTRUCTORS

Over 2,113 emails have been sent out by my company, to all the CCH instructors registered with the state of North Carolina opposing the proposed CCH instructor rule changes. 71 emails bounced, 2 people asked to be unsubscribed, and over 1,000 have taken the time to read what is happening and that number is increasing as people continue to open their emails. Below is a synopsis of replies, thoughts and comments:

Dear Fellow CCH Instructors,

Friday evening, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:48pm, many of us (but not all), received an email regarding proposed changes by the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission amending the rules and procedures for CCH instructors effective October 1, 2023.

As instructors, we understand the need for the State to require adherence to its rules and regulations and to weed out those are fraudsters. It appears the State is primarily concerned that it is unable to verify instructor compliance as it presently does not have the ability to determine where and when classes are being held in advance, so inspectors can attend.

The proposed procedures place an undue burden upon instructors, create additional work, time and expense, and places restrictions prohibiting our ability to teach upon request. Certainly, a solution can be found to assist the State to enable it to accomplish its objectives without disrupting legitimate instructors.

A Hearing is scheduled for **AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00am at the WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER, 321 CHAPANOKE RD, RALEIGH** and we would hope many instructors will attend, speak up, and beforehand, send emails presenting your objections or agreement with the proposal.

Please Email: Mr. Bob Overton, CCH Director  
Ms. Michelle Schilling CJST

[BOverton@ncdoj.gov](mailto:BOverton@ncdoj.gov)  
[MSchilling@ncdoj.gov](mailto:MSchilling@ncdoj.gov)

### PROPOSED CHANGES

- 1. Not fewer than 30 days before a course, instructors are being asked to send in a form with the instructor's name, course type, and the date, time and location of the course.**

*If this takes effect, we will no longer be able to teach individuals, groups or walk-ins, who are not scheduled for a class 30-days in advance, or for whom waiting would be problematic. Many instructors do not teach with a specific schedule but upon request. If someone contacts you today and has 10 people for a class next week, you will be unable to teach them. If one person calls tomorrow, and wants a private class the following day, you cannot teach them. Is there a procedure to cancel a class after you have sent in a 30-day notice? What if nobody shows up for a pre-announced class or there is an insufficient number of students for the instructor to proceed? What if a class is cancelled due to last minute inclement weather? Can it be resumed in one or two days without filing additional documentation? How are instructors assured that the State received your class pre-announcement? Is there a penalty for having a last minute class without being able to notify the State?*

*Losing the ability to teach upon request harms the instructors as they are running a business and penalizes the law abiding general public in search of training based upon their personal schedules.*

2. **Within 10 days AFTER the class, instructors must submit another form to the State containing the name(s) of the instructors and other class details, and if any changes were made from the pre-course 30-day form and must include the actual number of attendees with a class roster.**

*Now, two forms must be submitted with a deadline for each. Why does the State need to know the number of people who showed up, as they are notified when a permit is issued by the Sheriff's Office and to who. What if people take the class and do not obtain a permit? The number of students in a class is irrelevant as rosters can be maintained by the instructors for inspection. What is important, is how the course is taught.*

3. **Then, the State seeks a third form, known as a "roster", with the date of the course, the instructor(s), every student's full legal name, email address (some do not have any), and if they passed or failed the range requirements. (We would not have issued a certificate if they failed!) Further, we are being required to maintain that form for the State's inspection for an unknown period in addition to submitting it.**

*Most instructors maintain this information anyway, but it now must be in a specific prescribed format. The State's form? The instructors form? Is there a violation of any privacy laws to show the State who took a course and may have failed, or passed but didn't obtain a permit?*

*How long are we to maintain these forms, records and documents? What if they are lost or accidentally destroyed such as a fire, flood or storm? Is more paperwork to be sent in? If we did have to send it in, why should we maintain it because the State already has it?*

4. **The State wants us to provide a "Red Book" to each student during the class but advises that instructors can collect them after the class.**

*Many of us have our own form of instruction that includes the significant content of the red book that we teach in our own style. Some may teach directly from the book by boring students reading to them. Some have worked diligently to teach via a well thought out and designed presentation that teaches in a more logical and detailed manner that is interactive and educational. Instructors are teachers while anyone can read a book aloud. For those who have created their own courses, handing out a book that is not going to be used is a distraction. Further, the cost of the books keeps increasing, now at \$8.75 each plus shipping equating to \$10 a copy. This proposal serves no useful purpose.*

*When books change, we will be required to update the books, throw the old versions away, and purchase new books. Instructors can display what a book looks like, pass one around, inform the students where they can purchase a copy and direct them to the State's firearms website.*

*Practically speaking, many seniors who are widows, widowers or just aged, are likely not to be able to follow and understand the wording in the book as written, or have issues with the type of font, while human interaction with comprehensive explanations, diagrams, photos and answering specific questions is a far more effective way to educate and disseminate important information. The Red Book is indistinguishable from reading a dictionary. The Red Book should be a reference not a requirement. The state could require the cost of the book to be added to the permit application fee, and the Sheriff's Office can supply them.*

*Why doesn't the State allow this book to be placed online if its an official State potentially required handbook such as a Driver License manual? The State copywrote the book and will not allow CCH instructors to put it on their websites and has refused to make it available for download on the Internet. Is that against public policy?*

5. If adopted, the above forms are to be emailed to Mr. Bob Overton at [BOverton@ncdoj.gov](mailto:BOverton@ncdoj.gov), the Program Administrator. Is he going to acknowledge the receipt of each form?

*Do all instructors have Internet and emailing capabilities? Do all instructors have a working computer? If no computer or no Internet, then the instructor must find another source to send in the forms, often a paid source such as Staples, OfficeMax, Fedex, and so forth.*

*What if the instructor sends in the form, but it is not received by the Program Director for whatever the reason? What proof is there that the instructor attempted to comply? What about the non-compensatory time to submit these forms and to maintain a copy if proof is needed? Is the State going to acknowledge the receipt of all forms back to the instructor for the instructor's protection?*

**6. New proposal - No online permit classes are allowed.**

---

***Why wasn't the Notice of the August 9<sup>th</sup> Hearing posted together with the "Proposed Rule" change notice? Why did a CCH Instructor have to discover this information then share it, when it should have been forthcoming from the State? Was this designed to avoid instructor input and have instructors wake up one morning to find that the proposed rules were passed and in effect?***

**Suggestion One:**

Since instructors must renew annually, have the instructor certify they taught a minimum of five people during the year which would then subject each instructor to maintain records for the State to Inspect. If an instructor has not taught five people in a year, revoke their teaching certificate as they probably don't need to have one, but they would be eligible for renewal.

**Suggestion Two:**

Require the Sheriff's Office to conduct random permit application inspections including the instructor who issued the certificate, as the Sheriff is the primary permit issuing authority in each county.

**Suggestion Three:**

Require the instructors to maintain certain documentation without any pre or post course forms and have the State conduct random inspections of instructor and their records with penalties for violations. The State conducts inspections for other licensed activities and CCH instructors should be no different. This would place the task upon the State to ensure that instructors are conducting business properly as it should be, not upon the instructors.

**Suggestion Four:**

Add a statement to the permit application forms under oath, wherein the applicant acknowledges the course was at least eight hours long, confirms a list what was covered, confirms that the range time was in addition to the course time, and create a criminal penalty for false acknowledgement. The State can then question the applicant directly.

### **Suggestion Five:**

Have the state hire more personnel or share existing state inspection resources from other branches to conduct random classroom inspections (restaurant, barber, beautician, real estate inspectors etc.) including licensed private investigators.

### **CONCLUSION**

We are being asked to incur time, effort, and expense to solve a state problem to eliminate dishonest instructors. We want that to happen! However, the current proposals are impracticable and unworkable and were not promulgated by teachers, but rather administrators.

Most instructors in NC take an NRA or USCC course which costs between \$350.00 and \$650 in addition to travel, hotel, food and transportation. They must renew their permit every year for \$50.00, which is substantially higher than surrounding states. (SC's renewal \$100 for 5 years – TN's renewal is \$25 for three years – FL and Virginia have no instructor fee or renewal fee as do other states, and none of these require the purchase of certificates). NC instructors must purchase certificates at \$2.00 each from the state and cannot print their own as is common practice. Many of us pay for advertising, range usage, targets, ammunition, classroom space, handouts, business and instructor insurance and taxes. Purchasing certificates and now add Red Books mandate an advance out of pocket expense as they must be available at class time.

The course is 8 hours long without the range. A typical day of instruction with setup and teardown is 10-11 hours. (Many of us believe that a 5 or 6 hour course would be just as effective).

To add more to our workload with increased time and expense is simply not fair. To do a job that is the State's responsibility. Those owning ranges able to charge less than instructors who do not own a range. It is not a level playing field. We have each made a significant investment to conduct own businesses, and for all practical purposes the State now wants to restrict when we can teach together with creating an additional workload.

**The proposed rules are unfair, unreasonable and should not be adopted. Please plan to be present for the August 9<sup>th</sup> Hearing and voice your objections via email.**

Email: Mr. Bob Overton, CCH Director  
Ms. Michelle Schilling CJST

[BOverton@ncdoj.gov](mailto:BOverton@ncdoj.gov)  
[MSchilling@ncdoj.gov](mailto:MSchilling@ncdoj.gov)

Plan to attend the Hearing on AUGUST 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00am at the WAKE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER, 321 CHAPANOKE RD, RALEIGH and we would hope many instructors will attend, speak up, and beforehand, send emails presenting your objections or agreement with the proposal.

**Concerned Instructors**