

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-2 CORONER NOTIFICATION POLICY

ALS/ILS/BLS

Definition

- Any person who dies as a result of criminal or other violent means, or by casualty, or by suicide, or suddenly when apparent good health, or in any suspicious or unusual manner.

Reporting Responsibilities

- Any person who discovers the body or acquires the first knowledge of a death, shall immediately notify the Coroner of the known facts concerning the time, place manner, and circumstances of such death, and of any other information which is required by the Coroner.
- No person shall willfully touch, remove, or disturb the body of any such person, or disturb the clothing or any article upon or near such body.

Accidental Deaths

- All forms including death arising from employment
- Anesthetic accident
 - Death on the operating table or prior to recovery from anesthesia
- Intentional traumatic injury or other forms of mechanical violence
- Burns
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Crushed beneath falling objects
- Cutting or stabbing
- Drowning
- Electric shock
- Explosion
- Exposure
- Firearms
- Fractures of bones (not pathological)
 - Even when fracture is not primarily responsible for death
- Falls
- Hanging
- Heat related emergency (exhaustion/stroke)
- Poisoning
 - Ingestion, occupational, or any other cause
- Strangulation

Suicidal Deaths

- All confirmed or suspected suicide cases

Abortion

- Criminal or self induced:
 - When the manner of death falls within the above classification, such death must be reported to the Coroner even though the survival period subsequent to onset is 12 months.

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Sudden Deaths

- Unexpected death when in apparent good health
- Sudden death on the street, at home, in a public place, at a place of employment.
- Deaths under unknown circumstances
 - Whenever there are no witnesses of where little or no information can be elicited concerning the deceased person
 - Deaths of this type include those persons bodies are found:
 - In the open
 - In places of temporary shelter
 - In their homes under conditions which offer no clues to the cause of death
- Deaths which follow injuries sustained at place of employment whenever the circumstances surrounding such injury may ultimately be the subject of investigation.
 - Deaths of this classification include but not limited to:
 - Caisson Disease (Bends)
 - Industrial infections:
 - Anthrax
 - Septicemia
 - Bas bacillus infections
 - Tetanus
 - Silicosis
 - Industrial poisoning:
 - Acids
 - Alkalis
 - Benzene
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Carbon tetrachloride
 - Cyanogens
 - Lead
 - Nitrous fumes
 - Contusions, abrasions, fractures, burns, (flame, chemical, or electrical) received during employment which in the opinion of the attending physician is sufficiently important, either as the cause of death, to warrant certify them on the death certificate.
- All stillborn infants where there are suspicion of illegal interference.
- Deaths of persons where the attending physician cannot be found, or deaths of persons who have not been attended by a physician within 7 days prior to the date of death.
- All deaths occurring within 24 hours of admission to a hospital unless the patient has been under continuous care of a physician for natural disease which is responsible for death.

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(continued)

Reporting Information:

- To facilitate efficiency in processing cases, it is requested that the following information be submitted when reporting any death to the Coroner:
 - Name of person reporting case.
 - Name and address of deceased.
 - Age.

Special Considerations:

- Consult the Coroner in regard to ANY death which you have doubt or question.
- Do not remove any invasive equipment inserted during resuscitation efforts, or dispose of any personal effects without coroner approval.
- EMS personnel shall contact the coroner as denoted in their specific county coroner's procedures.