

**PURPOSE:** To identify those patient deaths which must be reported to the Medical Examiner, and to notify the Examiner's office when necessary.

**POLICY:**

According to the Statutes of the State of Connecticut, (Sec. 19a-406), deaths falling in any of the following categories must be reported to the Medical Examiner at 679-3980:

1. Deaths resulting from or related to:
  - a. Violent deaths whether apparently homicidal, suicidal, or accidental - including, but not limited to, thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury.
  - b. Poisoning, drug abuse, or addiction.
  - c. Criminal abortion - whether apparently self-induced or not.
  - d. Disease which might constitute a threat to public health.
  - e. Disease resulting from employment, or to accident while employed.
  - f. Sudden infant death syndrome.
  - g. Deaths under suspicious circumstances.
2. Deaths of persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea, or otherwise disposed of so as to be thereafter unavailable for examination.
3. Deaths occurring suddenly and unexpectedly, not caused by readily recognized disease, and including deaths of stillborn infants.
  - a. On arrival (D.O.A.'s) or within 24 hours of admission to hospital, including stillborn infants.
  - b. Under anesthesia, in an operating room or recovery room, following transfusions, or diagnostic procedures.

# UCONN HEALTH

UCONN JOHN DEMPSEY  
HOSPITAL

SECTION: MEDICAL LEGAL

NUMBER: 07-011

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CASE

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4. In any instance in which the death results from any of these categories, such a death is reportable to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner regardless of the length of time between the event and death.

## PROCEDURE:

1. In accordance with the above criteria, the pronouncing physician, APRN, PA or other approved LIP must consider whether the death of the patient must be reported to the Medical Examiner. The appropriate Connecticut State Statutes should be consulted if there are any questions.
2. If the patient meets any of the criteria outlined in the policy or if the pronouncing practitioner is unsure, the pronouncer shall notify the office of the Chief Medical Examiner.
3. If the Chief Medical Examiner accepts the case, the pronouncer must complete the Medical Examiner's Form.
4. If the Medical Examiner denies the case, the pronouncer will:
  - a. Document this denial on the Medical Examiner's Form.
  - b. Follow the procedure outlined in policy Death of a Patient 07-010.
  - c. Determine if any autopsy is to be performed, as per Autopsy Service policy 07-012.

## CROSS REFERENCE:

Death of a Patient, Policy #07-010  
Autopsy Services, Policy #07-012  
Organ-Tissue/Body Donations, Policy #07-016

  
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