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| **Policy: Investigator Pronouncement of Death** | **Union County Coroner Office** |

The Union County Coroner Office Investigator investigates **deaths** reported to the office and does not actually determine if a person may still be alive.

1. If there is a question whether the individual whose death was reported is in fact dead, the Investigator should not offer to make this determination. The Union County Coroner Office is not responsible for determining if death has occurred in an individual.
2. If formal pronouncement of death is required, the investigator should direct the individual requesting the death pronouncement to contact Dispatch (9-1-1) and request Emergency Medical Services respond to the scene for death pronouncement. Hospice deaths requiring pronouncement of death can be referred to the on-call hospice nurse. This may also be necessary if the investigator has arrived on scene, if appropriate protocols for death pronouncement have not been followed.
3. In situations where death is certain (e.g., bodies with advanced decomposition, dismemberment) but a formal pronouncement of death by a physician is not indicated, the investigator should record the date and time pronounced dead as the date and time the investigator was contacted or arrived on the scene.