***Transporting the Deceased***

1) If the body is not being released to the funeral home from the scene, the Investigator will prepare the body for transport using the following procedures depending on the type of call.

a. The Investigator should try to package the body in the position it was found, especially on homicide cases, with any devices in tact in the original location (knife that is still in a stab wound, medical devices, etc.)

b. The body will be placed in a zippered body bag if it’s a difficult extraction, suspicious death, homicide, decomposed, or where there are large amounts of fluid leakage from a wound or otherwise.

c. If the case is criminal in nature (homicide, possible homicide, and custody death) the Investigator will seal the body bag by placing a plastic lock through both zipper holes. This procedure should be photographed before and after the lock is secured. The lock number will be recorded in the MDILog case file.

d. If the case does not fit the above criteria, the decedent may be placed in a white plastic “envelope” for transport.

e. The time that the Investigator leaves the scene with the body AND the arrival time at the funeral home &/or Autopsy facility should both be recorded for chain of custody.

2) If the body is being released to the funeral home from the scene, the Investigator will contact either the on-call funeral home or the funeral home the family chooses to retrieve the body.

a. The Investigator should remain on scene to assist the funeral home if the family wishes or if the extraction will be difficult.

b. The exception to this policy is if the Investigator has other pending calls and is the only one on shift.

c. Upon returning to the Kootenai County Coroner’s Office the Investigator will fax all required information to the autopsy facility.