



## **Child Death Investigation Policy**

**Policy# 14-0709-1 Child Death Investigation Total pages= 2**

**Purpose:** To have a standardized policy for the investigation of all unexpected deaths involving children.

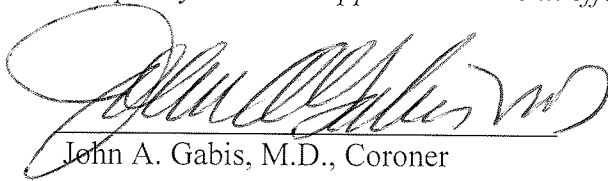
**Justification:** As in unexpected infant deaths, it is vital to have a standardize policy on the investigation of unexpected death of children. The scene investigation is vital to determining the cause and especially the manner of death in all cases and such is the case of child deaths.

### **Policy:**

1. For this policy, children are any child older than one year of age and less than 18 years of age.
2. Children under one year and younger, follow policy # 13-0627-1, SUDI Policy.
3. The investigation of unexpected child deaths mirrors adult death investigations, including all unexpected and unexplained deaths of children getting a full forensic autopsy and toxicology.
4. The scene should be examined jointly with law enforcement. Discuss the need for a search warrant. See Scene Investigation Policy # 14-0703-2
5. Death will be verified and documented as to how determined. See policy # 14-0619-6 Declaration of Death Policy.
6. The scene will be documented with photographs prior to any altering. Consider non-audio video and field sketching. See policy # 14-0530-1 Photography Policy.
7. The body will be examined carefully not to compromise any possible trace evidence on or about the body.
8. The investigator will examine for signs of trauma, any signs of abuse or neglect and signs of body changes as per policy # 12-0720-1 Time of Death Policy.
9. The body will be prepared for removal for forensic autopsy and toxicology as described in policy # 12-0810-1 Body Removal Policy
10. Coordinate with law enforcement to ensure necessary evidence is collected for processing at the crime lab.

11. Ensure that all caretakers and any witnesses are interviewed. Determine last known alive time, past medical history and events leading up to time of death.
12. Follow policy # 14-0619-8 Records Request Policy.
13. These cases will be reviewed at the annual Child Fatality Review meeting.

*This policy has been approved and is in effect until further notice:*

  
John A. Gabis, M.D., Coroner

July 9, 2014  
Date