



DECLARATION OF DEATH POLICY

Policy# 14-0619-6 Declaration of Death Policy (1 page)

Purpose: To have a policy verifying that the individual's death has been verified prior to releasing or removal of the body.

Justification: Verification of death and how the death was confirmed is the responsibility of this office.

Policy:

1. Even though this office is not considered a first response agency and typically death has been declared prior to our contact/arrival, the investigator shall confirm and document how, when and by whom that the death was declared.
2. If the investigator responds to the scene, he/she will confirm death and document what criteria was used, such as no carotid pulse present and lividity present.
3. The initial time pronounced will be used for documentation purposes.
4. If EMS pronounced prior to this office being contacted, verify directly, through law enforcement or from EMS's Pre-Hospital Pronouncement of Death Form on time and criteria used.
5. Determine as in item #4, if resuscitation attempt was made prior to pronouncement. This will change the official time of death and could impact body changes found.
6. The above items apply for hospital, hospice and extended care facilities.

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

John A. Gabis, M.D.
Office of the Coroner, Ross County, Ohio

June 19, 2014

Date