



Deferred Case Policy/Procedures

Policy# 12-0706-1 Deferred Case Policy and Procedures Total Pages=2 REVISED 03/07/24

Purpose:

1. To have a standard for deferring cases back to the primary care physician to sign the death certificate on deaths that are not coroner cases by Ohio ORC.
2. To allow for the primary care physician to fulfill their obligation to their patient even after death.
3. To have a standardized procedures for notification of the primary care physician and the funeral home.

Policy:

1. If a death occurs that is without question a natural death and the presentation is one that can be explained by the known medical history; and ...
2. The patient had been seen and/or provided prescription medication by their primary care provider within a reasonable period of time for the condition that the presentation appears to have caused the death; or a known complication of such disease process, then...
3. The case will not be accepted as a coroner's case and deferred back to the primary care provider for signing.
4. If a primary care physician refuses to sign even if the above conditions exist, the case will not be immediately accepted but will be discussed with the coroner or chief investigator for direction.

Procedures:

1. After determining the circumstances do not warrant accepting a death as a coroner's case, the investigator will notify the primary care physician. This includes but is not limited to a phone contact with physician on call coverage or appointed office staff.
2. The investigator will notify the primary care physician of the death and give the circumstances surrounding the death by phone or directly by email, if possible.
3. The investigator will advise that the presentation does not warrant accepting as a coroner's case and will be deferring for them to sign.
4. If the primary care physician is unavailable after reasonable effort to contact, then the investigator will notify whomever the office has placed in charge in the physician's absence or unavailability.
5. If the primary care provider is a certified nurse practitioner, the investigator will determine what physician will sign of their behalf; and request that the physician is made aware of the death and their responsibility to sign the DC.
6. The investigator will fax and/or email to the primary care physician the Notification of Death Form to assist the physician in filling out the death certificate.
7. The investigator will notify the funeral home that will be handling the service of the physician who will be signing.
8. If the investigator needs assistance in completing the above procedures, the investigator will give detailed information to the chief investigator who will assist.

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


Benjamin Trotter, DO, Coroner


Date