

Charleston County Coroner's Office Policy #24

Title: Hospice Deaths

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24.1 POLICY

To establish guidelines for handling the report of a death where the decedent was under the care of hospice services.

24.2 PROCEDURE

Deaths of hospice patients are reported to the Coroner's Office immediately after the death is verified by the appropriate hospice personnel. During office hours, typically the on-call Deputy shall obtain demographic and medical history via phone with hospice personnel who are present at the death scene however, this may be handled by any Deputy Coroner should the on-call deputy not be available. The Deputy should make note of all demographic information of the decedent and the name of the certifying physician as well as the cause of death. The Deputy Coroner will then notify the requested funeral home and release the body into their care. The Deputy will enter all required information into the Coroner's Office records management system. If necessary, the Deputy will issue a completed Burial-Removal-Transit permit via VRSIIS to the funeral home within 72 hours of the transport. The Deputy Coroner shall respond to the incident location if requested by hospice personnel or if there are unusual circumstances that may warrant further investigation.