

SECTION 4 - DETERMINATION OF DEATH

I. DETERMINATION OF DEATH – State Law

Section 22-31-1

Determination of Death an individual is deemed dead if:

1. He/she has sustained irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions; or
2. He/she has sustained irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem.

A determination of death under this section shall be in accordance with accepted medical standards.

II. PRONOUNCEMENT OF DEATH – AG OPINION

Coroners and Deputy Coroners can Pronounce Time of Death - even if EMS did not come to the scene - based on obvious signs of death : decomposition, lividity, injuries not sustainable of life.

It is important that the C/DC is consistent with pronouncement of death:

- a. Pronouncement with C/DC is notified of a death
- b. Pronouncement upon arrival of C/DC
- c. Pronouncement when the 1st 911 call was received.