



UNCLAIMED BODIES POLICY

Policy# 24-0320-1 Unclaimed Bodies Total pages= 2

Purpose: To establish proper procedures on how to handle unclaimed bodies and final disposition.

Justification: If a body is unclaimed by family or loved ones then it's the coroner's responsibility to assure proper final disposition.

Policy:

1. On all deaths reported to our office, investigator will Policy 13-0110-1 Next of Kin Notification, also referred to as NOK in this policy.
2. The investigator will advise the family of the investigation process and when the body will be released back to them and the process of contacting a funeral home of their choice.
3. If the family sates financial hardship, the investigator will suggest contacting other family members and friends for assistance.
4. After 48 hours of death notification to legal next of kin, the body may be released to anyone willing to accept responsibility.
5. If the family claims indigent status, the process will be discussed with the NOK and will be assisted in the notification of the appropriate authorities as per Ohio Revised Code Section 9.15.
6. If no NOK is known, then the investigator will contact the chief investigator for an Accurant search for family and/or associates of the deceased.
7. The investigator will also search the residence for cellphone, address book, refrigerator door, etc for possible contacts. Also check medical records, primary care provider for emergency contact.
8. The Decedent Affairs Office at the Veterans Administration will be checked to see if the deceased is a veteran.
9. Utilize local law enforcement agencies for assistance.
10. Consider contacting the Missing Persons Unit at the Ohio Bureau of Investigation and Identification for assistance.
11. Indigent burial will only be permitted once legal positive identification has been made.

12. NO CREMATION WILL BE AUTHORIZED/PERMITTED WITHOUT POSIVE IDENTIFICATION AS PER POLICY 14-0627-3 POSITVE IDENTIFICATION.
13. If positive ID cannot be made as per above, then the case will follow Policy 14-1016-1 COLD CASE-UNIDENTIFIED BODIES POLICY

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



Benjamin Trotter, DO, Coroner

03/20/2024

Date