



SUICIDE NOTE POLICY

Policy# 15-1204-1 Policy **Total pages=** 1


Purpose: To have guidelines in place on the collection and release of notes and or letters on suspected suicide cases.

Justification: Notes and or letters found at a death scene may contain information valuable to the manner of death and will be made part of the coroner case file. If possible and appropriate, the original notes and or letters will be released to the intended parties as this may be valuable to the healing process of the survivors.

Policy:

1. The investigator will collect all notes and/or letters found at a suspected death scene that may contain information relating to the frame of mind of the decedent prior to and at the time of death.
2. The location of such notes and or letters will be documented with photos prior to collecting.
3. Copies of the notes and or letters will be shared with the investigating law enforcement.
4. After the case is closed and after consulting the legal next of kin of the decedent, the original notes and or letters may be released to the addressed parties. Copies will be maintained in the case folder.
5. Any collection of electronic notes will be discussed with law enforcement.
6. Suicide notes and or letters are never considered public record and will not be released as such.

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



John A. Gabis, M.D., Coroner

Dec 4, 2015
Date