LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- SHREVEPORT

CORONER’S CASE

Purpose:

To establish the procedure for notification of all deaths that are mandated to be reported to the Coroner's Office pursuant to Louisiana Law R.S.13:5713.

Policy:

1. All deaths are screened using the following criteria and shall be reported to the Coroner’s Office if the criteria are met:
   
a. Suspicious, unexpected or unusual deaths
b. Sudden or violent deaths
c. Deaths due to unknown or obscure causes or in any unusual manner
d. Bodies found dead
e. Deaths without an attending physician within 36 hours prior to the hour of death
f. Deaths due to suspected suicide or homicide
g. Deaths in which poison is suspected
h. Any death from which natural causes occurring in a hospital under 24 hours of admission unless seen by a physician in the last 36 hours
i. Deaths following an injury or accident, either old or recent
j. Deaths due to drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs, or cutting, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, addiction, tetanus, strangulation, suffocation, or smothering
k. Deaths due to trauma from whatever cause
l. Deaths due to criminal means or by casualty
m. Deaths in prison or while serving a sentence
n. Deaths due to a virulent contagious disease that might be caused by or cause a public health hazard, (Examples - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, hepatitis)
o. Deaths of all infants under the age of one year. EXCEPTION: Stillbirth deaths are not reportable, **UNLESS the death is associated with a crime/trauma.**

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING WHETHER A DEATH SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE REPORTED TO THE CORONER’S OFFICE, CONTACT THE CORONER’S OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE.
2. The Nursing Unit shall be responsible for notifying the Coroner's Office of a possible coroner's case immediately upon the patient's death. (Reference Nursing Policy P-60)

3. If a Coroner's Case, the Coroner's Office shall be responsible for granting permission to release the body to either the Parish morgue or funeral home.


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