

WHEN DO PHYSICIANS NEED TO NOTIFY THE CORONER?

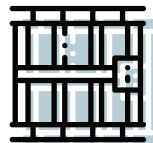
Physicians are responsible for immediately notifying their county coroner's office of any death resulting from the following causes:



Death occurring within **24 hours of admission** to a hospital or healthcare facility for which a reasonable natural cause has not been established.



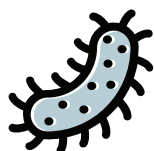
Fire exposure, asphyxiation or malnutrition.



Death of a person in any **penal state operated institution**. This includes the death of a person who has been transferred to a hospital or extended care unit.



A wound or injury caused by trauma (whether homicidal, suicidal or accidental in nature). The trauma should be the primary contributor to the cause of death, whether the injury occurred recently or in the past.



A known or suspected **contagious public hazard**, such as infectious hepatitis, infectious meningitis or other highly communicable disease. This does not include deaths due to AIDS.



Occupational diseases or hazards including exposure to toxic wastes, fractures, burns or any other injury received during employment or as a result of past employment.



Accidental poisoning caused by medication, chemical, or poison ingestion. This includes alcohol and drug intoxication.



Death of a person who has **active duty military status**.



Death that occurs when a patient is under an **anesthetic**. This includes deaths in the recovery room if the patient has not regained consciousness from the anesthesia.



Death of an **unidentified person**.



Death when the attending physician is **unable to determine** the cause of death after careful review of the patient's medical history.



Death related to or following a known or suspected self-induced or criminal **abortion**.



Any sudden, unexpected **death of a healthy child** (under the age of 18). This includes deaths involving a history of known or suspected child abuse.

If you are unsure if a certain case needs to be reported to your county coroner, please consult your coroner.

If a case meets one or more of the above circumstances, the coroner must complete the medical and health section of the certificate and confirm the time of death. If the coroner concludes that the physician can determine that the death occurred under natural circumstances, the physician can sign the death certificate.

