

REPORTABLE INFORMATION GUIDE FOR HOSPITAL, CARE FACILITY, AND DOCTOR'S OFFICE PERSONNEL

The purpose of this guide is to assist medical and care facility personnel in determining what constitutes a reportable and non-reportable death. Again, this information is merely a guide and if there is any question if the death is reportable, the Shasta County Coroner's Office employs an on call Deputy Coroner Investigator who can provide 24 hour assistance by calling 530-245-6540

RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is the duty of anyone having knowledge of a death that falls under the California Government & Health and Safety Code to report the death the Coroner's Office. Those reporting deaths to the Coroner's Office must be aware of the following:

1. The death must be reported IMMEDIATELY (CA Gov.Code 27491)
2. It is unlawful for anyone to move a dead body from the position or place of death without permission of the Coroner. (CA Gov.Code 27491.2(b))
3. No evidence shall be removed or collected (CA Gov.Code 27491.3)
 - a. That includes clothing and personal property regardless of whether it is on the body or removed from the body.
 - b. Evidence or personal property MAY NOT BE RELEASED to law enforcement agencies or next of kin without the knowledge and consent of the Coroner's Office.
 - c. Medical devices shall remain in place – **DO NOT REMOVE ANYTHING**
4. All medical records and admission specimens should be available at the time of release to the Coroner or in a timely manner.

REPORTABLE vs CORONER CASES

All Coroner Cases are reportable but not all reportable cases are Coroner Cases.

Reportable cases are to be differentiated from **Coroner's** cases.

While the duty to report certain cases continues, the decision on whether there shall be a full investigation rests with the Coroner. A full investigation is not required of the Coroner's Office purely by virtue of the case having been reported. The Coroner's Office will give any interested party the basis for accepting or rejecting any case reported.

The Coroner shall have discretion to determine the extent of inquiry to be made into any death occurring under **NATURAL circumstances** and falling within the provisions of the law.

The decision as to whether a death is in fact a **Coroner**'s case rests with the Coroner. If it is determined, after appropriate evaluation, that the death is not a Coroner's case, and there is sufficient knowledge to *reasonably state* the cause of death under natural circumstances it then becomes the responsibility of the **attending physician** to issue the death certificate.