

Information for Hospitals, Nursing Homes, In Home Health Care and Hospice Agencies:

Please contact the Howard County Coroner's Office when any of the following apply.

If in doubt, always call! We are here to assist you!

1. Deaths stemming from any wound or injury. This will include any trauma, whether homicidal, suicidal, or accidental in nature.
2. Deaths following an accident or injury, either old or recent, that is the primary contribution to the cause of death.
3. Any sudden, unexpected death of a health child.
4. Any death involving a history of known or suspected child abuse.
5. Death occurring due to accidental poisoning, food, chemical, drug, therapeutic agents, occupational diseases or occupational hazards.
6. Death occurs due to known or suspected contagious public hazard, such as infectious hepatitis, infectious meningitis, or other highly communicable diseases. This does not include deaths due to AIDS.
7. Deaths of inmates or inpatients of penal state operated institutions. This will include the death of such patients who have been transferred to a hospital or extended care unit.
8. Deaths related to or following a known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.
9. Deaths when patient is under an anesthetic. This will include deaths in the recovery room if the patient has not regained consciousness from anesthesia.
10. Deaths occurring within 24 hours of admission to a hospital or healthcare facility that also meet one of the criteria to be considered a Coroner's case. If any doubt, call for a case/phone consult.
11. Death occurs and the attending physician is, after careful review of medical history, unable to state cause of death.
12. Death of an unidentified person.
13. Death resulting from fire, exposure, alcoholism, drug addiction, aspiration, or malnutrition.
14. Death of a person who is active duty status military.

The physician has only the responsibility to report the above listed deaths. The coroner will determine if the death will be investigated or if the death certificate can be routinely signed by the attending physician.

A family wish or request for autopsy does not qualify a case as a coroner's case.

Updated 10/11/2018