



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1104

medical examiner; jurisdiction; death reporting

Purpose

Modifies the list of circumstances surrounding a death of a person that must be reported to a peace officer, and specifies that the county Medical Examiner (ME) is able to determine that the circumstances surrounding the death provide jurisdiction.

Background

Any person having knowledge of the death of a human is required to promptly notify the nearest peace officer of all the information they have pertaining to the death under certain circumstances, such as the death of a person who is not under the current care of a health care provider or a death resulting from violence (A.R.S. § 11-593). The peace officer is then required to promptly notify the county or alternate ME, who will direct a death investigation if it is determined that the circumstances surrounding the death provide jurisdiction.

Additionally, the county or alternate ME must complete and sign the medical certification of death on a death certificate within 72 hours of the examination, excluding weekends and holidays. In circumstances where the cause of death cannot be determined within that time, the county or alternate ME must enter *pending* for the cause of death and sign the medical certification of death within 72 hours after the examination, excluding weekends and holidays.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Modifies ME procedures so that the ME only takes charge of the dead bodies whose circumstances of death give the ME jurisdiction.
2. Modifies the list of reasons that a person must report a known death, including:
 - a) expanding the list to include the deaths of persons in a custodial agency, rather than the death of a prisoner or deaths occurring in a prison;
 - b) specifying deaths as a result of surgical or anesthetic procedures;
 - c) adding deaths suspected to be caused by a previously unreported or undiagnosed disease; and
 - d) adding unexpected or unexplained deaths of children.

3. Requires a peace officer to notify the county or alternate ME of deaths resulting from surgical or anesthetic procedures.
4. Changes, from anatomic pathology to forensic pathology, the type of certification a licensed physician must have in order to supervise an authorized medical student or resident and fellow in pathology training who is performing autopsies.
5. Makes technical and conforming changes.
6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

- Modifies the list of reportable deaths.

Senate Action

HHS	1/20/16	DP	7-0-0
GOV	1/27/16	DPA	7-0-0

Prepared by Senate Research
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EM/PB/lis