

POLICY

DEATH CERTIFICATES

3030

Official Certifying Death:

Montana State law provides that “the person in charge of disposition of the dead body shall present the death certificate to the certifying physician, physician assistant, advanced practical registered nurse or the coroner having jurisdiction for medical certification of the cause of death.” Jurisdiction is established by the relationship of the physician and the patient and the circumstances of death. A provider has jurisdiction for certifying death ONLY if that provider was the last attending provider AND the death was judged to be from natural causes. Otherwise, the jurisdiction belongs to another provider or to the coroner and state medical examiner.

Official Pronouncing Death:

Pronouncement may be in person or by proxy. Pronouncement by proxy occurs when the nurse or attendant calls the provider or coroner, explains the occurrence, and the provider or coroner pronounces death while not in attendance. If that procedure is followed, the provider or coroner pronouncing death will sign the Certificate of Death as the pronouncing official.

It is the policy of Bullhook Community Health Center that providers have complete authority to decide whether they will pronounce death either in person or by proxy.

Completion of Certificate of Death:

The appropriate coroner or funeral director will present the Certificate of Death to Bullhook Community Health Center after having completed all information possible.

If the official certifying death is a Bullhook Community Health Center provider, the Certificate of Death will be completed by the certifying provider using information from the medical record on file at Bullhook Community Health Center.

The provider completing the Certificate of Death will sign as either Certifying or Pronouncing Official or both, as appropriate.

The Certificate of Death will be returned to the coroner or funeral director within 3 working days from receipt.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 3/9/2020



CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: 3-9-2020

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