

Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health- Proctor	Page # 1 of 2	Section:	Policy #: 5
	Approved by:		Date: 6/2017 Review by: 6/2018
	Supersedes: Date Revised: 6/2017		
	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties:		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: CORONOR NOTIFICATION			

I. **POLICY:**
Coroner Notification

II. **PURPOSE AND STANDARD:**
To define when the coroner notification is required and when a deceased patient can be turned over to law enforcement.

III. **POLICY SCOPE:** Departmental

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION:**
In accordance with Section 10.6, Chapter 31 of the Illinois Revised Statutes – Coroners:

A. Every law enforcement official, funeral director, prehospital provider, hospital director of administration or person having custody of the body of a deceased person, where the death is one subjected to investigation under Section 10 of this Act, and any physician in attendance upon such a decedent at the time of his death, shall notify the coroner promptly. Any such person failing to notify the coroner promptly shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, unless such person has reasonable cause to believe that the coroner had already been notified.

B. Deaths that are subject to coroner investigation include:

1. Accidental deaths of any type or cause
2. Homicidal deaths
3. Suicidal deaths
4. Abortions – criminal or self-induced maternal or fetal deaths
5. Sudden deaths – when in apparent good health or in any suspicious or unusual manner including sudden death on the street, at home, in a public place, at a place of employment, or any deaths under unknown circumstances may ultimately be the subject of investigation.

C. The coroner (or his/her designee) should be provided the following information:

1. Your name

2. Your EMS service
 3. Location of the body or death
 4. Phone number and/or radio frequency you are available on
 5. Brief explanation of the situation
- D. Once this information has been provided, wait for the coroner (or his/her designee) to arrive for further instructions. EMS crews may clear the scene if law enforcement is on the scene and no other emergency exists.
- E. Law enforcement personnel are responsible for death scenes once the determination of death is established with Medical Control and the coroner has been notified.
- F. If a patient is determined to be dead during transport, note the time & location and record this information on the patient care report. Immediately contact the coroner to discuss death jurisdiction. If the patient has a valid DNR order and after transport has begun, if the patient expires, continue transport to the receiving hospital and contact the coroner.