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**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**CORONER'S DIRECTIVE**

**28**

**Effective Date ~~05/30/99~~  
02/06/18**

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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>REPORTABLE NON-CORONER – NATURAL DEATH CASES</b>
<b>POLICY</b>	To establish a procedure for taking natural death, doctor-will-sign cases.
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To differentiate types of coroner cases and the forms used with each one.
<b>CODE REFERENCE</b>	Government Code § 27491
<b>CASE LAW</b>	
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	
<b>PROCEDURE</b>	
A. Report Types	
1. Long-form coroner's cases	
	A long-form coroner's report must be written for all cases in which, after investigation, the deputy determines a physician is not authorized or willing to sign the death certificate.
2. Short-form non-coroner's cases	
a. A short-form incident report must be written for all cases in which, it is determined, by investigation, the case does not require a long form and a doctor will sign the death certificate. If it is not necessary for a deputy to respond to each natural death case. If a competent person has verified death and acknowledges death has occurred and states there is a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) on file, or that the patient is terminal, it can be handled by telephone.	

- b. The short form report will contain all necessary identifying information on the decedent, place and time of death, reporting party information, who will be signing the death certificate, and the cause of death. The cause of death must be accurate. Never rely on a physician's receptionist for accurate information. Speak directly to the doctor.

### 3. Hospice Cases

A registered nurse who is a member of a hospice interdisciplinary team who attended to a decedent 20 days prior to their death is regarded the same as if it were the doctor. Cases that fall under this category no longer need to be reported to the coroner and no response is required by the sheriff's office.