
**NEVADA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



CORONER'S DIRECTIVE

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Effective Date ~~05/30/99~~
2/6/18

SUBJECT **CORONER'S PROCEDURE MANUAL**

POLICY The Coroner's Procedure Manual provides guidelines and policies for the deputy coroner; however, these guidelines are not all-inclusive and cannot take into account every contingency or possibility. The Coroner's Procedure Manual is to be used as a starting point and guide.

PURPOSE This Coroner's Procedure Manual is intended to provide all deputy coroners with basic guidelines in the everyday performance of their duties. Policy not covered specifically by this manual shall be covered by the Nevada County Sheriff's Office General Orders and Division Directives.

CODE REFERENCE Government Code §27491 et seq.

CASE LAW

DEFINITIONS

PROCEDURE

A. General

The coroner acts for the purpose of protecting the rights of and speaking for the deceased while benefitting the living. Proper investigation of a coroner's case is as important as any criminal investigation and may develop as one.

Per Government Code Section 27491, it is the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of:

1. All violent, sudden, or unusual deaths
2. Unattended deaths
3. Deaths wherein the decedent has not been attended by a physician or registered nurse who is a member of the hospice care interdisciplinary team within 20 days before death

4. Deaths related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion
5. Known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning
6. Deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part or related to accident or injury either old or recent.
7. Deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, or aspiration
8. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
9. Death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means
10. Death associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature
11. Deaths in prison or while under sentence
12. Deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard
13. Deaths from occupational disease or occupational hazards
14. Deaths of patient in state mental hospitals serving the mentally disabled and operated by the State Department of Mental Health
15. Deaths of patients in state hospitals serving the developmentally disabled and operated by the State Department of Developmental Services
16. Deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by criminal activity of another
17. Any death reported by a physician or other persons having knowledge of death for inquiry by the coroner

Note: Per Government Code Section 27491.3, taking possession of the personal effects, valuables, and property of the deceased at the scene of the death is discretionary.

B. Jurisdiction – Incorporated Areas

There will be instances where the responsibilities of the Sheriff-Coroner are required within the incorporated areas of the county simultaneously. Generally, the deputy assigned will perform the obligations and functions of a deputy coroner, and only as a deputy coroner in the incorporated areas of the county.

C. Working Relationships

It is imperative that a good working relationship exists among all sheriff's divisions, law enforcement agencies, and other investigative agencies within the county. To accomplish this, a free exchange of information is strongly encouraged.