

Laurel Police Department – General Order
Chapter IV, Section 400, Order 709 – Death Investigations
January 27, 2016

4 / 709.05 POLICY

It is the Department policy to establish procedures and responsibilities for the handling of all deaths that originate within the City of Laurel.

4 / 709.10 PURPOSE

To establish guidelines concerning any death originating within the City of Laurel to include working codes that involve CPR in progress, with a transport to a medical facility that results in death being declared.

4 / 709.15 DEFINITIONS

None

4 / 709.20 PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL

1. When it is obvious from the onset of the investigation that a death is neither a homicide nor suspicious in nature, the responding officer will gather the following information:
 - a. Name, address, gender, race and date of birth of decedent.
 - b. Ambulance number and personnel who pronounced the death, along with the time of pronouncement.
 - c. Name and telephone number of decedent's physician.
 - d. Name, address and telephone number of next-of-kin.

2. Officer will then perform the following steps:
 1. Collect and log all medications of decedent.
 2. Examine deceased for signs/indications of trauma.
 3. Contact physician to determine whether they will sign the death certificate.
 4. Complete a Death Scene Checklist
 5. Notify on-call forensic investigator from the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and provide details of the incident.

3. Upon notification by the Forensic Investigator that the body may be released, advise the next-of-kin that the body may be released from the scene to a funeral director.

4. Prepare appropriate reports to include:
 - a. Incident Report classifying the incident as Unattended or Attended Death
 - b. Commander's Report
 - c. Death Scene Checklist.

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5. In all sudden death cases where the reporting officer notes suspicious or unusual circumstances, he/she shall secure the scene and notify the on-call detective from the Criminal Investigation Division.
 - a. If the officer has any questions, concerns or doubts as to the nature of the death, and whether it might be a result of homicide or violence

4 / 709.25 GOVERNING LEGISLATION AND REFERENCES

CALEA Standard 22.2.6, 81.2.11

4 / 709.30 ANNEX

None