



# San Mateo County Coroner's Office

50 Tower Road – San Mateo, CA 94402

Office: (650) 312-5562 Fax: (650) 571-6258

## HOSPICE DEATH REPORTING

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office requests that all hospice deaths falling into the provisions of California Government Code §27491 or Health and Safety Code §120130 immediately be notified at (650) 312-5562. This will assist in alleviating further distress on families when diagnoses fall into the jurisdiction of the Coroner's Office, which would be discovered days later. Codes §27491 and §120130 states the primary duties of the Coroner's Office are to investigate the following deaths:

- Violent, sudden or unusual deaths
- Unattended deaths
- Physician or hospice RN has not seen the decedent in 20 days
- Known/suspected homicide or other criminal means
- Known/suspected suicide
- Known/suspected accident or injury
  - In whole or part; old or recent
- Known/suspected accidental poisoning
- Known/suspected contagious disease constituting a public hazard
- Aspiration on something other than natural secretions
- Drowning
- Fire
- Hanging/strangulation
- Stabbing/cutting
- Occupational disease or hazard
- Exposure
- Starvation
- Acute alcoholism
- Drug addiction
- Communicable disease
- Suspected sudden unidentified infant death syndrome
- Any death reported by a physician or other person with knowledge of death for inquiry by the Coroner

### When death is pronounced, please answer the following questions:

MD to certify the death:  Yes  No → If **no**, contact the Coroner's Office (650)312-5562

Is there **kin** or **family**?  Yes  No → If **no**, contact the Coroner's Office (650)312-5562

History of **trauma/abuse**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

History of **hip fractures**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

**Head injuries**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

**Medication abuse**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

**Suicide/homicide**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

**Aspiration**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

**Communicable disease**?  Yes  No → If **yes**, contact the Coroner's Office (650) 312-5562

If the decedent's death is related to any of the aforementioned conditions, contact the San Mateo County Coroner's Office **immediately** at (650) 312-5562. The Coroner's Office is open 24 hours per day for death reports.