
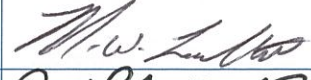
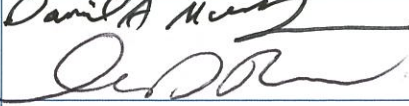
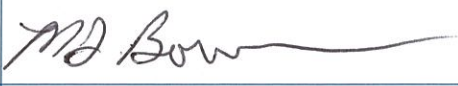


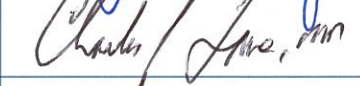

	Standard Operating Guideline: EMS 6	
	Subject:	Handling of DOA Patients
	Effective Date:	November 1, 2012
	Revision Date:	September 5, 2017
	Approval:	
	EMS Representative:	
	Fire Representative:	
	Career Representative:	
	FCSO Representative:	
	RMPD Representative:	
	Franklin County Commonwealth Atty:	
	OMD:	
Director:		

PURPOSE: Franklin County Public Safety is committed to assure that once clinical death is established that the remains be treated with dignity and comfort/compassion shall be given to the family.

I. POLICY:

A. Upon arrival of Emergency Medical Service personnel (EMS):

1. Determine if the scene is safe.
2. Determine if clinical death has occurred per Western Virginia Emergency Medical Service (WVEMS) guideline.
3. Contact the communications center on the non-emergency phone or via county radio. Advise the communications center of the DOA and request that law enforcement personnel respond, unless the death is in a health

care facility and no evidence of foul play exists. Request the on duty Public Safety chaplain to respond to the scene.

4. Do not disturb the scene. Wait for law enforcement to arrive.
5. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the area and keep EMS personnel to a minimum number necessary to handle the call safely.
6. Contact the Western Virginia Office of Chief Medical Examiner for ALL deaths (540-561-6615). Be prepared to provide the following information:
 - a. Name of deceased
 - b. Date of birth
 - c. Primary care physician
 - d. Last time patient seen alive
 - e. Time of death
 - f. Medical history
 - g. Medications
 - h. Circumstances surrounding death
 - i. Law Enforcement officer on scene
 - j. Family member for contact, if available
 - k. Funeral home of choice if available

If the patient is going to be a ME case, transport to the location determined by the ME office, either CFMH morgue or OCME office on Peters Creek Road in Roanoke. Transportation can be done by a body removal service if approved by the on duty operations captain and law enforcement on scene.

7. If the body is declined as a ME case by the medical examiner's office, contact the primary care physician or last physician of record seeing the patient. (During the weekday, contact the physician's office, during off hours times contact the nearest the hospital for on call provider for that practice.) This will be the provider to sign the death certificate. Be sure to record time contact and name of the physician.
8. Contact the funeral home of the family choice. Be prepared to provide the following information:
 - a. Name of deceased
 - b. Date of birth
 - c. Provider who will sign the death certificate
 - d. Address patient is located at
 - e. Time of death
 - f. Family member for contact (name and phone number)
9. If the patient is released to go to a funeral home, patient can be transported by the funeral home or on scene EMS (if approved by captain or patient is in a location not conducive to leaving them to wait for funeral home).
10. Before leaving, speak with a family member to determine if any further assistance is needed or answer any questions that they may ask to the best of your ability.
11. Document all information pertaining to the call in the patient care report.
 - a. Name of deceased
 - b. Date of birth

- c. Provider who agreed to sign the death certificate-name and time contacted
- d. Last time patient seen alive
- e. Time of death
- f. Medical history
- g. Medications
- h. Circumstances surrounding death
- i. Law Enforcement officer on scene
- j. Family member for contact, if available
- k. OCME-name and time contacted
- l. Funeral home-name and time contacted
- m. Disposition of patient
- n. Other pertinent information to complete PCR