

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
85th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2005  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 2772**

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF  
DEATHS."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 2772.**

Amend House Bill No. 2772 as originally introduced:

Delete everything following the ENACTING CLAUSE and substitute the following:

“SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-18-601(c), concerning general requirements for the registration of deaths, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The medical certification shall be completed, signed, and returned to the funeral director within two (2) business days after receipt of the death certificate by the physician in charge of the patient’s care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by § 12-12-315, § 12-12-318, or § 14-15-301 et seq.

(1) In the absence of the physician, or with his or her approval, the certificate may be completed and signed by his or her associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, by the pathologist who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, or by a registered nurse as provided in subdivision (c)(2), provided the individual has access to the medical history of the case, views the deceased at or after death, and death is due to natural causes. The person completing the cause-of-death section of the certificate shall attest to its accuracy either by a signature or by approved electronic process.

(2) A registered nurse employed by the attending hospice may complete and sign the medical certification of death for a patient who is terminally ill, whose death is anticipated, who is receiving services from a hospice program certified under § 20-7-117, and who dies in a hospice inpatient program or as a hospice patient in a nursing home.

(3) In the event the hospice patient dies in the home or in a nursing home, the registered nurse may make pronouncement of death; however, the county coroner and the chief law enforcement official of the county or municipality where death occurred must be immediately notified in accordance with § 12-12-315.

(4) The Department of Health shall provide hospitals, nursing homes, and hospices with the appropriate death certificate forms which will be made available to the attending physicians, coroners, or other certifiers of death. When death occurs outside these health facilities, the funeral home will provide the death certificate to the certifier.”



The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative Mahony  
MBM/JGH - 03-25-2005 11:49  
MBM367 \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Clerk