

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill                 HOUSE BILL

1830

By: Representative Fairchild

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED 12-12-315 TO CLARIFY TO WHOM DEATHS ARE TO BE REPORTED AND WHAT TYPES OF DEATHS ARE TO BE REPORTED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated 12-12-315(a) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) The county coroner and the chief law enforcement official of the county or municipality in which death of a human being occurs shall be promptly notified by any physician, law enforcement officer, undertaker or embalmer, jailer or correction officer, coroner, or by any other person present or with knowledge of the death, if:

(1) The death appears to be caused by violence or appears to be the result of homicide, suicide, or accidental;

(2) The death appears to be the result of the presence of drugs or poisons in the body;

(3) The death appears to be as a result of a motor vehicle accident or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;

(4) The death appears to be as a result of a motor vehicle accident and there is no obvious trauma to the body;

(5) The death occurs while the person is in a state mental institution or hospital and there is no previous medical history to explain the death, or while the person is in police custody, a jail, or penal institution;

(6) The death appears to be the result of a fire or explosion;

(7) The death of a minor child appears to indicate child abuse prior to death;

(8) Human skeletal remains are recovered;

(9) Postmortem decomposition exists to the extent that an external examination of the corpse cannot rule out injury or where the circumstances of death cannot rule out the commission of a crime;

(10) The death appears to be the result of drowning;

(11) The death of an infant or minor child in cases where there is no previous medical history to explain the death;

(12) The manner of death appears to be other than natural;

(13) The death is sudden and unexplained;

(14) The death occurs at a work site;

(15) The death is due to criminal abortion."

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.