

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005
4

As Engrossed: H3/28/05

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2772

5 By: Representative Mahony
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS CONCERNING THE
10 REGISTRATION OF DEATHS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAWS CONCERNING
13 THE REGISTRATION OF DEATHS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 20-18-601(c), concerning general requirements*
20 *for the registration of deaths, is amended to read as follows:*

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

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

35 *(2) A registered nurse employed by the attending hospice may*
36 *complete and sign the medical certification of death for a patient who is*



1 terminally ill, whose death is anticipated, who is receiving services from a
2 hospice program certified under § 20-7-117, and who dies in a hospice
3 inpatient program or as a hospice patient in a nursing home.

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

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

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15 /s/ Mahony
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