

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 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

SENATE BILL 806

4
5 By: Senator Salmon
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT AMENDING ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
10 NOTIFICATION OF THE COUNTY CORONER OF CERTAIN
11 DEATHS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT AMENDING ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING
15 NOTIFICATION OF THE COUNTY CORONER OF
16 CERTAIN DEATHS.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-12-315(a)(1), concerning notification of
22 the county coroner of certain deaths, is amended to read as follows:

23 (a)(1) The county coroner and the chief law enforcement official of
24 the county and municipality in which the death of a human being occurs shall
25 be promptly notified by any physician, law enforcement officer, undertaker or
26 embalmer, jailer or correction officer, or coroner, or by any other person
27 present or with knowledge of the death, if:

28 (A) The death appears to be caused by violence or appears
29 to be the result of a homicide or a suicide or to be accidental;

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

32 (C) The death appears to be a result of a motor vehicle
33 accident, or the body was found in or near a roadway or railroad;

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

36 (E) The death occurs while the person is in a state mental



1 institution or hospital and there is no previous medical history to explain
 2 the death, or while the person is in police custody, a jail, or penal
 3 institution;

4 (F) The death appears to be the result of a fire or
 5 explosion;

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

8 (H) Human skeletal remains are recovered or an
 9 unidentified deceased person is discovered;

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

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

14 (K) The death is of an infant or minor child in cases in
 15 which there is no previous medical history to explain the death;

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

17 (M) The death is sudden and unexplained;

18 (N) The death occurs at a work site;

19 (O) The death is due to a criminal abortion;

20 (P) The death is of a person where a physician was not in
 21 attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding death, or, in prediagnosed
 22 terminal or bedfast cases, within thirty (30) days;

23 (Q) A person is admitted to a hospital emergency room
 24 unconscious and is unresponsive, with cardiopulmonary resuscitative measures
 25 being performed, and dies within twenty-four (24) hours of admission without
 26 regaining consciousness or responsiveness, unless a physician was in
 27 attendance within thirty-six (36) hours preceding presentation to the
 28 hospital, or, in cases in which the decedent had a prediagnosed terminal or
 29 bedfast condition, unless a physician was in attendance within thirty (30)
 30 days preceding presentation to the hospital; ~~or~~

31 (R) The death occurs in the home; or

32 (S)(i) The death poses a potential threat to public health
 33 or safety.

34 (ii) Upon receiving notice of a death that poses a
 35 potential threat to public health or safety the county coroner shall
 36 immediately notify the Department of Health and Human Services.