

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/17/25 S4/8/25*

95th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1734

By: Representative Childress

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
CERTIFICATES; TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND
PRONOUNCE DEATH OF A PATIENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
CERTIFICATES; AND TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND PRONOUNCE DEATH
OF A PATIENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-18-601(c)(3), concerning the signature
for a medical certification of death and the pronouncement of death, is
amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) A registered nurse employed by the attending hospice may
complete and sign the medical certification of death and pronounce 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 or
hospital.

(B) An advanced practice registered nurse may complete and
sign the medical certificate of death and pronounce death of a patient in a
hospital setting if the advanced practice registered nurse is given authority
by the medical staff of the hospital and a physician other than an emergency



department physician is not immediately available.

/s/Childress