

## **Reportable Death**

The Coroner positively identifies the deceased, determines the circumstances and cause of death, takes charge of any property found upon the body and notifies the legal next of kin. The Coroner may investigate any death in the county; however, deaths resulting from long-term illness such as heart disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes, etc., and where an attending California licensed physician can state that the cause of death was natural, are not usually investigated by the Coroner.

A physician and surgeon, physician assistant, funeral director, or other person shall immediately notify the Coroner when he/she has knowledge of a death that occurred or has charge of a body in which death occurred under any of the following circumstances:

- Without medical attendance, which includes all deaths outside of hospitals or skilled nursing facilities.
- Wherein the deceased had not been attended by a physician in the 20-days prior to death.
- The attending physician is unable to render a reasonable opinion as to the cause of death.
- When homicide is known or suspected.
- When suicide is known or suspected.
- When a criminal action is involved or suspected to be involved in the death.
- Related to, or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion.
- Associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature.
- Known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from an accident or injury, either old or recent.
- When aspiration, starvation, exposure, drug addiction or acute alcoholism is the known or suspected cause.
- When poisoning is known or suspected.
- When occupational disease or hazards are the known or suspected cause.
- When a contagious disease is the known or suspected cause.
- When death occurred while in-custody of a law enforcement agency or while in prison.
- All deaths of state hospital patients.
- All Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths.
- Deaths during or related to surgery or surgical procedures, or following a surgery or surgical procedure if the deceased did not awake from the anesthetic.