
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2014 No.

MEDICAL PROFESSION

**NOTIFICATION, CERTIFICATION AND
REGISTRATION OF DEATHS**

CORONERS, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2014

Made - - - - - ***

Laid before Parliament ***

Coming into force - - - ***

The Lord Chancellor, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 18(1) and 176(3)(c) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009(a), and after consultation with the Secretary of State for Health and the Chief Coroner in accordance with section 18(2) of that Act, makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Notification of Deaths Regulations 2014 and shall come into force on *[date]*.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“controlled drug” has the meaning given in section 2(1)(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971(b);

“medicinal product” has the meaning given in section 130 of the Medicines Act 1968(c); and

“relevant coroner” means the senior coroner in whose area the body of the deceased person lies.

(a) 2009 c.25.

(b) 1971 c.38.

(c) 1968 c.67, as amended by the Animal Health and Welfare Act 1984 (c.40), the Medical Devices (Consequential Amendments – Medicines) Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/3119), the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/50) and the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/2407).

Duty to notify a relevant senior coroner of a death

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (6), a registered medical practitioner (R) must notify a relevant coroner of a death where R comes to know of the death on or after [*the commencement date*] and one or more of the circumstances set out in paragraphs (2) to (5) applies.

(2) R knows or has reason to suspect that the death—

- (a) occurred as a result of poisoning, the use of a controlled drug, medicinal product or toxic chemical;
- (b) occurred as a result of trauma, violence or physical injury, whether inflicted intentionally or otherwise;
- (c) is related to any treatment or procedure of a medical or similar nature;
- (d) occurred as a result of self harm, (including a failure by the deceased person to preserve their own life) whether intentional or otherwise;
- (e) occurred as a result of an injury or disease received during, or attributable to, the course of the deceased person's work;
- (f) occurred as a result of a notifiable accident, poisoning or disease^(a);
- (g) occurred as a result of neglect or failure of care by another person; or
- (h) was otherwise unnatural.

(3) The death occurred in custody or otherwise in state detention.

(4) (a) No attending practitioner attended the deceased at any time in the period of 28 days prior to the date of death; or

(b) where such a practitioner did attend, no person is available within a reasonable period to prepare a certificate under section 20(1)(a)(i) of the Act.

(5) The identity of the deceased person is unknown.

(6) This regulation does not apply where R reasonably believes that the relevant senior coroner has already been notified of the death.

Notification

4.—(1) Where R must notify a relevant coroner of a death under regulation 3, such notification may be oral or in writing but must be made as soon as reasonably practicable.

(2) The notification must include the following information so far as it is known to R—

- (a) the full name of the deceased person;
- (b) the date of birth of the deceased person;
- (c) the gender of the deceased person;
- (d) the usual place of residence of the deceased person;
- (e) the place of death, where different from the place in sub-paragraph (d);
- (f) the date and time of death;
- (g) the occupation of the deceased person;
- (h) where the deceased person was under the age of 18 years, the name and address of a parent or person who had parental responsibility or care of the deceased person;
- (i) the name of the attending practitioner where this is not R;
- (j) the paragraph or paragraphs of regulation 3 which R considers relevant;
- (k) R's name, address (including e-mail address where available) and telephone number; and
- (l) any other information R considers relevant.

(a) "Notifiable accident, poisoning or disease" has the meaning given in section 7(4) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009.

- (3) Where the notification under paragraph (1) is provided orally—
- (a) the relevant coroner must record in writing the information provided; and
 - (b) R must confirm that the record is accurate.

Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice

Date

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations set out the circumstances in which a registered medical practitioner must notify a senior coroner of a death.

Regulation 3 imposes a duty on a registered medical practitioner to notify the senior coroner within whose area the body of the deceased person lies of a death in certain prescribed circumstances. The duty applies where the practitioner comes to know of the death on or after [*commencement date*].

The circumstances in which a death must be reported include (amongst other things) cases where the death may have occurred as a result of trauma, injury, disease, neglect, self-harm or poisoning and cases where the deceased was not attended by a registered medical practitioner before his or her death or the cause of death or the identity of the deceased is unknown.

Regulation 4 permits the notification by the registered medical practitioner to be made either orally or in writing. It must be made as soon as reasonably practicable. Regulation 4 also sets out the information to be provided. Where notification is given orally the senior coroner must record in writing the information provided and the registered medical practitioner must confirm that the record is accurate.