

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1810

By: Covey

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 1991, Section 1-317, which relates to death certificates; requiring certain language on form to accompany death certificate; requiring signature of person providing information; requiring the State Department of Health to prepare and distribute a blank form; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 1991, Section 1-317, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-317. ~~(a)~~ A. A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar of the district in which the death occurred, within three (3) days after such death and prior to burial or removal of the body; provided, that, ~~if:~~

~~(1) if the~~ 1. The place of death is unknown, a death certificate shall be filed in the registration district in which a dead body is found, within three (3) days after such occurrence; and

~~(2) if death~~ 2. Death occurs in a moving conveyance, a death certificate shall be filed in the registration district in which the dead body was first removed from such conveyance.

~~(b)~~ B. The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body shall file the death certificate. ~~He~~ The funeral director or person acting as such shall obtain the personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available. ~~He~~ The funeral director or person acting as such shall complete the certificate as to personal data and deliver the

certificate to the attending physician or the medical examiner responsible for completing the medical certification portion of the certificate of death within twenty-four (24) hours after the death.

C. 1. The funeral director or person acting as such who is required to file the death certificate pursuant to subsection B of this section, shall submit to the local registrar a signed form containing the following language along with the completed death certificate. The form shall contain in type at least as large as the balance of the document, the following or substantially similar language:

"The knowing and intentional providing of any false information concerning the deceased for inclusion on the death certificate may constitute grounds for a criminal prosecution for perjury or may subject the individual to court costs and attorney fees for the knowing and intentional failure of the person to provide corrective information."

2. The form shall be signed by the next of kin or best qualified person or source available who is providing the personal data to the funeral director or person acting as such, to attest to the accuracy of the personal data entered thereon.

3. The State Department of Health shall prepare and print blank forms and shall distribute the forms to funeral directors, hospitals and such other persons or locations as deemed necessary by the Department for compliance with this subsection.

~~(e)~~ D. The medical certification shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section 938 of this title.

~~(d)~~ E. In the event that the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death is not in attendance at the time of death, the medical certification

shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in attendance at the time of death, except when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section 938 of this title. Provided, that such certification, if signed by other than the attending physician, shall note on the face the name of the attending physician and that the information shown is only as reported.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 1999.

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