

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 3544

By: Townley of the House

3 and

4 Kidd of the Senate

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8 An Act relating to public health; amending 63 O.S.  
9 2011, Section 1-317, as last amended by Section 2,  
10 Chapter 305, O.S.L. 2019 (63 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section  
11 1-317), which relates to death certificates;  
12 authorizing an advanced practice registered nurse to  
13 sign a death certificate; and providing an effective  
14 date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2011, Section 1-317, as  
17 last amended by Section 2, Chapter 305, O.S.L. 2019 (63 O.S. Supp.  
18 2019, Section 1-317), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 1-317. A. A death certificate for each death which  
20 occurs in this state shall be filed with the State Department of  
21 Health, within three (3) days after such death.

22 B. The funeral director shall personally sign the death  
23 certificate and shall be responsible for filing the death  
24 certificate. If the funeral director is not available, the person  
acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body in

1 accordance with Section 1158 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes  
2 shall personally sign and file the death certificate. The personal  
3 data shall be obtained from the next of kin or the best qualified  
4 person or source available. The certificate shall be completed as  
5 to personal data and delivered to the attending physician or the  
6 medical examiner responsible for completing the medical  
7 certification portion of the certificate of death within twenty-four  
8 (24) hours after the death. No later than July 1, 2012, the  
9 personal data, and no later than July 1, 2017, the medical  
10 certificate portion, shall be entered into the prescribed electronic  
11 system provided by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics and the  
12 information submitted to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.  
13 The resultant certificate produced by the electronic system shall be  
14 provided to the physician or medical examiner for medical  
15 certification within twenty-four (24) hours after the death.

16 C. The medical certification shall be completed and signed  
17 within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician or  
18 advanced practice registered nurse in charge of the patient's care  
19 for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when  
20 inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section 938 of this  
21 title. No later than July 1, 2017, the medical certification  
22 portion of certificate data shall be entered into the prescribed  
23 electronic system provided by the State Registrar of Vital

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1 Statistics and the information submitted to the State Registrar of  
2 Vital Statistics.

3 D. In the event that the physician or advanced practice  
4 registered nurse in charge of the patient's care for the illness or  
5 condition which resulted in death is not in attendance at the time  
6 of death, the medical certification shall be completed and signed  
7 within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician or  
8 advanced practice registered nurse in attendance at the time of  
9 death, except:

10 1. When the patient is under hospice care at the time of death,  
11 the medical certification may be signed by the hospice's medical  
12 director; and

13 2. When inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section  
14 938 of this title.

15 Provided, that such certification, if signed by other than the  
16 attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse, shall  
17 note on the face the name of the attending physician or advanced  
18 practice registered nurse and that the information shown is only as  
19 reported.

20 E. A certifier completing cause of death on a certificate of  
21 death who knows that a lethal drug, overdose or other means of  
22 assisting suicide within the meaning of Sections 3141.2 through  
23 3141.4 of this title caused or contributed to the death shall list  
24 that means among the chain of events under cause of death or list it

1 in the box that describes how the injury occurred. If such means is  
2 in the chain of events under or in the box that describes how the  
3 injury occurred, the certifier shall indicate "suicide" as the  
4 manner of death.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

6 Passed the House of Representatives the 10th day of March, 2020.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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