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February 9, 2022

By: Pugh and Garvin

An Act relating to physician assistants; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-317, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2021, which relates to death certificates; allowing physician assistant to sign death certificate subject to certain condition; amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-312, which relates to controlled dangerous substances; modifying references; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 1-317, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2021, is amended to read as follows:

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

B. The funeral director shall personally sign the death certificate and shall be responsible for filing the death certificate. If the funeral director is not available, the person acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body in accordance with Section 1158 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall personally sign and file the death certificate. The personal

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

14 C. The medical certification shall be completed and signed  
15 within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician,  
16 physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse in charge  
17 of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in  
18 death, except when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by  
19 Section 938 of this title. No later than July 1, 2017, the medical  
20 certification portion of certificate data shall be entered into the  
21 prescribed electronic system provided by the State Registrar of  
22 Vital Statistics and the information submitted to the State  
23 Registrar of Vital Statistics.  
24

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

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

11 2. When inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section  
12 938 of this title.

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

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

describes how the injury occurred, the certifier shall indicate  
"suicide" as the manner of death.

F. The authority of a physician assistant to carry out the  
functions described in this section shall be governed by the  
practice agreement as provided by Section 519.6 of Title 59 of the  
Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 2-312, is  
amended to read as follows:

Section 2-312. A. A physician, podiatrist, optometrist or a  
dentist who has complied with the registration requirements of the  
Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, in good faith and in  
the course of such person's professional practice only, may  
prescribe and administer controlled dangerous substances, or may  
cause the same to be administered by medical or paramedical  
personnel acting under the direction and supervision of the  
physician, podiatrist, optometrist or dentist, and only may dispense  
controlled dangerous substances pursuant to the provisions of  
Sections ~~355~~, 355.1 and 355.2 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. A veterinarian who has complied with the registration  
requirements of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, in  
good faith and in the course of the professional practice of the  
veterinarian only, and not for use by a human being, may prescribe,  
administer, and dispense controlled dangerous substances and may

1 cause them to be administered by an assistant or orderly under the  
2 direction and supervision of the veterinarian.

3 C. An advanced practice nurse who is recognized to prescribe by  
4 the Oklahoma Board of Nursing as an advanced registered nurse  
5 practitioner, clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse-midwife,  
6 who is subject to medical direction by a supervising physician,  
7 pursuant to Section 567.3a of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and  
8 who has complied with the registration requirements of the Uniform  
9 Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, in good faith and in the course  
10 of professional practice only, may prescribe and administer Schedule  
11 III, IV and V controlled dangerous substances.

12 D. An advanced practice nurse who is recognized to order,  
13 select, obtain and administer drugs by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing  
14 as a certified registered nurse anesthetist pursuant to Section  
15 353.1b of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes and who has complied  
16 with the registration requirements of the Uniform Controlled  
17 Dangerous Substances Act, in good faith and in the course of such  
18 practitioner's professional practice only, may order, select, obtain  
19 and administer Schedules II through V controlled dangerous  
20 substances in a preanesthetic preparation or evaluation; anesthesia  
21 induction, maintenance or emergence; or postanesthesia care setting  
22 only. A certified registered nurse anesthetist may order, select,  
23 obtain and administer such drugs only during the perioperative or  
24 periobstetrical period.

1 E. A physician assistant who is recognized to prescribe by the  
2 State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision under the medical  
3 direction of a supervising physician, pursuant to ~~subsection D of~~  
4 Section 519.6 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and who has  
5 complied with the registration requirements of the Uniform  
6 Controlled Dangerous Substances Act, in good faith and in the course  
7 of professional practice only, may prescribe and administer Schedule  
8 II through V controlled dangerous substances.

9 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

10 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
11 February 9, 2022 - DO PASS  
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