Central DuPage Emergency Medical Services

Notification of Coroner

INTRODUCTION AND	EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR:
APPROVAL: 3/90	
REVIEW & APPROVAL:	EMSS COORDINATOR:
REVISION & APPROVAL: <u>6/95, 1/98, 2/09</u>	

PURPOSE:

Define when the coroner should be called by prehospital personnel.

POLICY:

The following deaths, classified in Section 10 of the Coroner's Act of the State of Illinois as amended in 1957 and in conjunction with the policies of the Central DuPage EMS System, will be reported to the coroner of the county affected.

- 1. Sudden or violent death, whether apparently suicidal, homicidal or accidental.
- 2. Maternal and/or fetal death due to abortion or any death due to a sex crime or a crime against nature.
- 3. Death where circumstances are suspicious, obscure, or mysterious, or where in the written opinion of the attending physician, the cause of death is not determined.
- 4. Death where addiction to alcohol or to any drug may have been a contributory cause.
- 5. Death occurring without medical attention within the last thirty days.
- 6. Death occurring in any DuPage County long term care facility if body is not to be transported to the hospital.

NOTE: Regardless of the situation surrounding the current patient status, medical care takes precedence over the preservation of a crime scene. However, care should be taken not to destroy evidence that can be maintained intact (i.e.: cutting through a bullet hole.)

- A. If the coroner notification is completed by the prehospital personnel, it should be recorded on the prehospital care report, indicating the time and the person receiving the call as well as the disposition of the victim.
- B. If the crime scene is turned over to the police, the name of the officer or officers and their badge numbers should be documented on the ambulance report form.

Coroner's Act:

Every law enforcement official, funeral director. ambulance attendant, hospital director or administrator or person having custody of the body of a deceased person, where the death is one subject to investigation under Section 3-3013, and any physician in attendance upon such a decedent at the time of his death, shall notify the Coroner promptly. Any such person failing to so notify the Coroner promptly shall be guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor. unless such person has reasonable cause to believe that the Coroner had already been so notified.

SECTION: 5/3-3019

Removal of Bodies-Violation

No dead body which may be subject to the terms of this Division, or the personal property of such deceased person, shall be handled, moved, disturbed, embalmed or removed from the place of death by any person, except with the permission of the Coroner, unless the same shall be necessary to protect such body or property from damage or destruction, or unless necessary to protect life, safety, or health. Any person knowingly violating the provisions of this Section is guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor

SECTION

Deceased.

SECTION: 5/3-3020

Coroner to be Notified-Violation