

144.28 Medical certification.

1. The medical certification shall be completed and signed by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death within seventy-two hours after receipt of the death certificate from the funeral director or individual who initially assumes custody of the body, except when inquiry is required by the county medical examiner. If upon inquiry into the death, the county medical examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802, subsection 3, the county medical examiner may elect to defer to the physician in charge of the patient's preexisting condition the certification of the cause of death. When inquiry is required by the county medical examiner, the medical examiner shall investigate the cause of death and shall complete and sign the medical certification within seventy-two hours after determination of the cause of death.

2. The person completing the medical certification of cause of death shall attest to its accuracy either by signature or by an electronic process approved by rule.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, § 2320; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, § 141.4(18); C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, § 144.28]

97 Acts, ch 159, §16; 2002 Acts, ch 1098, §2; 2007 Acts, ch 159, §26