

**144.31 Medical certification — fetal death.**

1. The medical certification for a fetal death shall be completed within seventy-two hours after delivery by the physician in attendance at or after delivery except when inquiry is required by the county medical examiner.

2. When a fetal death occurs without medical attendance upon the mother at or after delivery or when inquiry is required by the county medical examiner, the medical examiner shall investigate the cause of fetal death and shall complete the medical certification within seventy-two hours after taking charge of the case. The person completing the medical certification of cause of fetal death shall attest to its accuracy either by signature or as authorized by rule.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2322, 2323, 2405; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §141.6, 141.7, 144.20; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §144.31]

[97 Acts, ch 159, §19](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1163, §1](#)

Referred to in [§144.35](#), [331.611](#)