

**641—127.1(144,331,691) Definitions.**

*“Autopsy”* means the external and internal postmortem examination of a deceased person.

*“Cause of death”* means the disease or injury that sets in motion the chain of events that eventually results in the death of a person. The physician shall consider “but for” this injury or disease the person would still be living.

*“County medical examiner”* or *“CME”* means a medical or osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed in the state of Iowa and appointed by the board of supervisors to serve in this capacity.

*“County medical examiner investigator”* or *“CME-I”* means an individual appointed by a county medical examiner, with approval by the board of supervisors and the state medical examiner, to serve under the supervision of a county medical examiner to assist in death investigations.

*“County of appointment”* means the county that requests a medical examiner to conduct an investigation, perform or order an autopsy, or prepare a report(s) in a death investigation case. The request may be authorized by the county attorney or the county medical examiner. The county of appointment shall be the county in which the death occurred.

*“Cremation”* means the technical process, using heat and flame, that reduces human remains to bone fragments.

*“Cremation permit”* means an electronic cremation permit approved by the medical examiner.

*“Day”* means calendar day.

*“Death”* means the condition as described in Iowa Code section 702.8.

*“Death affecting the public interest”* means any death of a human being in which the circumstances are sudden, unexpected, violent, suspicious, or unattended, including but not limited to those deaths listed in Iowa Code sections 331.802(3) and 144.29.

*“Deputy county medical examiner”* or *“DCME”* means an individual appointed by a county medical examiner, with approval by the board of supervisors and the state medical examiner, to assist the county medical examiner in the performance of the county medical examiner’s duties.

*“EMER”* means the electronic medical examiner report.

*“External examination”* means a close inspection of the exterior of a deceased human body for the purpose of locating, describing, and delineating any and all injuries or other abnormalities. External examination of a body does not constitute an autopsy, even if toxicology samples are obtained.

*“Fee”* means an amount to be paid to a county medical examiner’s office as determined by the board of supervisors of the county of appointment for completion of an investigation, autopsy, or report(s). Fees for services provided by the state medical examiner’s office are established in rule 641—126.3(691).

*“Manner of death”* means the circumstances under which the cause of death occurred and may be specified as follows: natural, accident, suicide, homicide, undetermined, or pending.

*“Medical care provider”* means an individual licensed or certified in any medical profession, including but not limited to a physician, physician assistant, nurse, emergency medical care provider, certified nurse’s aide, pharmacist, physical therapist, and medical technologist.

*“Medical examiner”* means the state medical examiner, deputy state medical examiner, county medical examiner, or deputy county medical examiner.

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