

641—127.6(331,691) Cremation.

127.6(1) *Permit obtained prior to cremation—cremation permit.* A permit for cremation must be obtained from a county medical examiner or state medical examiner prior to cremation of a body of a decedent. Cremation permits must be completed in the electronic death registry system. For the purposes of this requirement, a hard copy or facsimile of a hard copy shall only be utilized if the electronic death registry system is off-line for four or more hours.

127.6(2) *Requirements for issuance of permit.* A county medical examiner shall direct an inquiry into the cause and manner of death and determine whether the death is one that affects the public interest prior to issuing a cremation permit.

a. Death that affects the public interest. If the death occurred in a manner specified in Iowa Code section 331.802(3) or if reasonable suspicion that the death occurred in such a manner exists, a medical examiner shall view the body, make a personal inquiry into the cause and manner of death, and complete or cause to be completed all necessary autopsy or postmortem examinations prior to issuing a cremation permit.

b. Death that does not affect the public interest. If, following an inquiry into the cause and manner of death, the county medical examiner determines that the death did not occur in a manner specified in Iowa Code section 331.802(3), a medical examiner is not required to view the body prior to issuing a cremation permit. A county medical examiner must certify on the Cremation Permit in the electronic death registry system that the medical examiner's inquiry into the cause and manner of death did not disclose evidence that the death occurred in a manner specified in Iowa Code section 331.802(3).

127.6(3) *Fee.* A fee for the Cremation Permit by Medical Examiner shall be paid by the family, next of kin, guardian of the decedent, or other person authorized to act on behalf of the decedent.

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