

CHAPTER 26

DEATH CERTIFICATES — PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS OR ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONERS

H.F. 393

AN ACT allowing a physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner to sign a death certificate.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 142C.8, subsection 10, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

10. The physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner who attends the decedent at death and the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner who determines the time of death shall not participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a part from the decedent.

Sec. 2. Section 144.26, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended to read as follows:

1. a. A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed as directed by the state registrar within three days after the death and prior to final disposition, and shall be registered by the county registrar if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this chapter. A death certificate shall include the social security number, if provided, of the deceased person. All information including the certifying physician's, physician assistant's, or advanced registered nurse practitioner's name shall be typewritten.

b. A physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner authorized to sign a death certificate shall be licensed in this state and shall have been in charge of the deceased patient's care.

Sec. 3. Section 144.28, subsection 1, paragraphs b and e, Code 2011, are amended to read as follows:

b. Unless there is a nonnatural cause of death, the medical certification shall be completed and signed by the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner 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.

e. If upon inquiry into a death, the county or state 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 medical examiner may elect to defer to the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's preexisting condition the certification of the cause of death.

Approved April 6, 2011