



North Region EMS System

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Purpose To describe appropriate on-scene interaction of EMS providers with law enforcement at a crime scene and indications and procedure for coroner notification.

- Policy**
- 1) Assess scene safety: If indicated, treatment and transport should be delayed pending arrival of law enforcement to secure the scene.
 - 2) Law enforcement has authority of any crime scene. They may refuse admittance to a scene, for safety reasons and to preserve physical evidence.
 - a. EMS personnel should follow the direction of law enforcement regarding scene safety and evidence preservation.
 - i. If following law enforcement direction prevents patient access or compromises patient care, immediately notify Supervisor and Resource Hospital.
 - 3) Document scene observations, name, department, and badge number of law enforcement officer on patient care report.
 - 4) Avoid contamination of scene and damage to, or loss of, evidence. If alteration of scene occurs due to patient care, notify law enforcement.
 - a. Avoid contact with, and do not remove, objects from the scene.
 - b. All equipment and supplies (e.g., dressings, packages) brought to the scene by EMS personnel should be removed by EMS personnel when they leave the scene.
 - c. If clothing must be cut, avoid cutting through any tears, holes, or damaged or stained areas.
 - d. Gunshot wounds:
 - i. Do not wash/clean patient's hands or area with gunshot wounds.
 - ii. Use caution to avoid loss of evidence when handling clothing, as expended bullets may be in clothing. Check ambulance, linens, and stretcher for evidence. Retain sheet from under patient for possible evidence. All evidence should be given to law enforcement and documented on patient care report.
 - e. Hanging or asphyxiation: Avoid untying or cutting into any knots in the material unless needed to open the patient's airway.
 - f. Stab wounds: When treating patients, impaled objects should be stabilized in place.
 - 5) If crime, suicide, accidental or suspicious death, and law enforcement is not already on-scene, request law enforcement response.
 - a. The following are Lake County Coroner reportable deaths:



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- i. sudden or violent, whether apparently suicide, homicide or accidental,
- ii. firearm related deaths
- iii. blunt trauma (blows),
- iv. cutting or stabbing,
- v. falls,
- vi. electric shock,
- vii. asphyxia,
- viii. drowning,
- ix. hanging,
- x. suffocation,
- xi. strangulation,
- xii. vehicular collisions
- xiii. weather-related (exposure),
- xiv. burns,
- xv. drug overdose,
- xvi. poison ingestion,
- xvii. fractures of bones,
- xviii. carbon monoxide poisoning,
- xix. anesthetic accident (O.R.),
- xx. work related deaths,
- xxi. maternal or fetal death due to abortion,
- xxii. sex crime or a crime against nature,
- xxiii. suspicious, obscure or mysterious death,
- xxiv. death where addiction to alcohol or drugs may have been a contributing cause,
- xxv. natural death where the decedent was not attended by a licensed physician or occurring within 24 hours of admission to hospital,
- xxvi. death occurring in any jail or other correctional institution.

6) Notify Coroner or confirm notification by law enforcement. The Lake County Coroner can be contacted at 847.377.2200.

References

<https://www.lakecountylil.gov/716/Coroners-Case>
<http://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/005500050K3-3020.htm>

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