



## Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

### Title 63. Public Health and Safety

#### Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Public Health Code

#### Article Article 3 - Vital Statistics

#### Section 1-317 - Death Certificate - Filing - Contents

Cite as: 63 O.S. § 1-317 (OSCN 2013)

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(a) A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed with State Department of Health within three (3) days after such death

(b) The funeral director shall personally sign the death certificate and shall be responsible for filing the death certificate. If the funeral director is not available, the person acting as such who first assumes custody of a dead body in accordance with Section 1158 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall personally sign and file the death certificate. The personal data shall be obtained from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available. **The certificate shall be completed as to personal data and delivered to the attending physician or the medical examiner responsible for completing the medical certification portion of the certificate of death within twenty-four (24) hours after the death.** No later than July 1, 2012, the personal data shall be entered into the prescribed electronic system provided by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics and the information submitted to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. The resultant certificate produced by the electronic system shall be provided to the physician or medical examiner for medical certification within twenty-four (24) hours after the death.

(c) **The medical certification shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death,** except when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section 938 of this title.

(d) In the event that the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death **is not in attendance** at the time of death, **the medical certification shall be completed and signed within forty-eight (48) hours after death by the physician in attendance at the time of death,** except when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by Section 938 of this title. Provided that such certification, if signed by other than the attending physician, shall note on the face the name of the attending physician and that the information shown is only as reported.

### **Historical Data**

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Laws 1963, SB 26, c. 325, art. 3, § 317; Amended by Laws 1978, SB 514, c. 110, § 2, eff. October 1, 1978; Amended by Laws 1979, SB 270, c. 110, § 1, emerg. eff. April 25, 1979; Amended by Laws 2010, HB 3171, c. 374, § 1, eff. November 1, 2010 ([superseded document available](#)).



## Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

### Title 63. Public Health and Safety

#### Chapter 37 - Medicolegal Investigations

#### Section 938 - Types of Deaths to be Investigated

Cite as: O.S. §, \_\_\_

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A. All human deaths of the types listed herein shall be investigated as provided by law:

1. Violent deaths, whether apparently homicidal, suicidal, or accidental, including but not limited to, deaths due to thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiational injury, and deaths due to criminal abortion, whether apparently self-induced or not;
2. Deaths under suspicious, unusual or unnatural circumstances;
3. Deaths related to disease which might constitute a threat to public health;
4. Deaths unattended by a licensed medical or osteopathic physician for a fatal or potentially-fatal illness;
5. Deaths of persons after unexplained coma;
6. Deaths that are medically unexpected and that occur in the course of a therapeutic procedure;
7. Deaths of any inmates occurring in any place of penal incarceration; and
8. Deaths of persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea, transported out of the state, or otherwise made ultimately unavailable for pathological study.

B. No autopsy shall be performed on the body of an executed inmate unless requested by the immediate family of the inmate prior to the execution or unless directed by the Department of Corrections or the Chief Medical Examiner. The Chief Medical Examiner shall not automatically authorize or perform an autopsy in conjunction with an investigation of death of an inmate that resulted from a scheduled execution due to a death sentence imposed pursuant to Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The Chief Medical Examiner may authorize or perform such an autopsy only when the public interest requires it. The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit an inmate from donating, in writing, his or her body to a teaching medical institution for scientific or research purposes.

C. The Chief Medical Examiner shall state on the certificate of death of all persons whose death was caused by execution pursuant to a lawful court order that the cause of death was the execution of such order.

### ***Historical Data***

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Laws 1961, SB 81, p. 605, § 8, eff. January 2, 1962; Amended by Laws 1963, SB 295, c. 302, § 2, emerg. eff. June 19, 1963; Amended by Laws 1972, HB 1401, c. 246, § 7, emerg. eff. April 7, 1972; Amended by Laws 2000, SB 1069, c. 161, § 1, emerg. eff. July 1, 2000.

