



**PRAIRIE NORTH REGIONAL
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

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POLICIES & PROCEDURES

**Number: 15011(P)
Category: Continuing Care – LTC
Title: Coroner Case Procedure**

Approved by: VP Integrated Health Services

**Source: Director of Continuing Care
Date Effective: April 2013**

Review Date:					
Initial:					

PROCEDURE

Staff shall call the Coroner when a resident is deceased if staff believe or has reason to believe that death occurred in the following circumstances:

- Occurred as result of accident or violence or was self-inflicted.
- Occurred from cause other than disease or sickness.
- Occurred as a result of negligence, misconduct or malpractice on the part of others.
- Occurred suddenly and unexpectedly when deceased appeared to be in good health.
- Occurred under circumstances that require investigation.

Staff shall leave the body in the condition that it was found which includes:

- Not moving body of deceased from location and position found.
- Not covering the body of the deceased.
- Not washing the body of the deceased.
- Closing the door of the resident’s room and not allowing anyone to enter or leave the room until the Coroner allows.
- Not removing any of the resident’s personal articles and possessions and/or any facility equipment in the room.

The Coroner has the right to cordon off the area for purposes of an investigation for a period of not greater than forty-eight hours.

The Coroner has the right to prohibit removal of objects from the area cordoned off until the investigation is completed and will return such personal items of the resident to their next of kin.

The Coroner has the right to review and make copies of any records related to the deceased or his or her circumstances where the coroner believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to do so for the purpose of the investigation.

Staff shall make themselves available for an interview by the Coroner. They may not leave the workplace until advised to do so by the Coroner.

If the death should occur in a public common area of the facility and is causing undue stress on residents, families and visitors, staff shall:

- Contact the Coroner and request permission to move the deceased resident to a private area.
- The Coroner will usually allow the movement to occur as this makes the situation less stressful for everyone.
- The Coroner will ask staff to preserve the scene and all the evidence.

REFERENCES

The Coroners Act, 1999 – Chapter C-38.01 of The Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1999

The Coroners Regulations, 2000 – Chapter C-38.01 Reg 1 (effective June 1, 2000)