HOSPICE DEATH REPORTING

The San Mateo County Coroner’s Office requests that all hospice deaths falling into the provisions of California Government Code §27491 or Health and Safety Code §120130 immediately be notified at (650) 312-5562. This will assist in alleviating further distress on families when diagnoses fall into the jurisdiction of the Coroner’s Office, which would be discovered days later. Codes §27491 and §120130 states the primary duties of the Coroner’s Office are to investigate the following deaths:

- Violent, sudden or unusual deaths
- Unattended deaths
- Physician or hospice RN has not seen the decedent in 20 days
- Known/suspected homicide or other criminal means
- Known/suspected suicide
- Known/suspected accident or injury
  - In whole or part; old or recent
- Known/suspected accidental poisoning
- Known/suspected contagious disease constituting a public hazard
- Aspiration on something other than natural secretions
- Drowning
- Fire
- Hanging/strangulation
- Stabbing/cutting
- Occupational disease or hazard
- Exposure
- Starvation
- Acute alcoholism
- Drug addiction
- Communicable disease
- Suspected sudden unidentified infant death syndrome
- Any death reported by a physician or other person with knowledge of death for inquiry by the Coroner

When death is pronounced, please answer the following questions:

MD to certify the death:  □ Yes □ No  →  If no, contact the Coroner’s Office (650)312-5562
Is there kin or family?  □ Yes □ No  →  If no, contact the Coroner’s Office (650)312-5562
History of trauma/abuse?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650)312-5562
History of hip fractures?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562
Head injuries?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562
Medication abuse?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562
Suicide/homicide?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562
Aspiration?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562
Communicable disease?  □ Yes □ No  →  If yes, contact the Coroner’s Office (650) 312-5562

If the decedent’s death is related to any of the aforementioned conditions, contact the San Mateo County Coroner’s Office immediately at (650) 312-5562. The Coroner’s Office is open 24 hours per day for death reports.