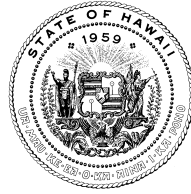


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STATE OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 3469
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July 2016

TO: All Hawaii Licensed APRNs

FROM: The Hawaii State Board of Nursing

RE: Act 183, SLH 2016 Relating to Advance Practice Registered Nurses –
Certify Cause of Death

Amended Law/Purpose

With the Governor's approval of the above mentioned measure, various State laws were amended to recognize or include APRNs. The following sections were amended to recognize APRNs to certify cause of death:

Section 338-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) In preparing a certificate of death or fetal death the person in charge of the disposition of the body shall:

- (1) Obtain and enter on the certificate the personal data and other information pertaining to the deceased person required by the department from the person best qualified to supply them;
- (2) Present the certificate of death to the physician or **advanced practice registered nurse** last in attendance upon the deceased, or to the coroner's physician, who shall thereupon certify the cause of death to the physician's or **advanced practice registered nurse's** best knowledge and belief, or present the certificate of fetal death to the physician, **advanced practice registered nurse**, midwife, or other person in attendance at the fetal death, who shall certify the fetal death and such medical data pertaining thereto as can be furnished; provided that fetal deaths of less than twenty-four weeks or intentional terminations of pregnancy performed in accordance with section 453-16 may be certified by a nurse or other employee based upon the physician's records; and

- (3) Notify immediately the appropriate local agent, if the death occurred without medical attendance, or if the physician or **advanced practice registered nurse** last in attendance fails to sign the death certificate. In such event the local agent shall inform the local health officer, and refer the case to the local health officer for immediate investigation and certification of the cause of death prior to issuing a permit for burial, or other disposition of the body. When the local health officer is not a physician or when there is no such officer, the local agent may complete the certificate on the basis of information received from relatives of the deceased or others having knowledge of the facts.

If the circumstances of the case suggest that the death or fetal death was caused by other than natural causes, the local agent shall refer the case to the coroner for investigation and certification.

Section 338-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

§ 338-10 Late determination of the cause of death. If the cause of death cannot be determined within three days, the certification of its cause may be filed after the prescribed period, but the attending physician, **advanced practice registered nurse**, or coroner's physician shall notify in writing the local agent of the department of health of the district in which the death occurred of the reason for late filing, in order that a permit for the disposition of the body may be issued.

As used in this section, "late" means more than three days after the date of death.

Department of Health

Death certificates fall under the Department of Health, Office of Health Status Monitoring ("DOH"). If you would like to certify the cause of death, please contact Leatrice Tsubota at DOH via email at: Leatrice.tsubota@doh.hawaii.gov.