

Iowa County, Iowa
Policy Manual

Title: DOA's – Death in the Field	Reference #: AMB 1025
Section: Departmental	Date Effective/Revised: 7/1/2014
Department (s): Ambulance	Approved By: Board of Supervisors

Policy

- 1) Notify the Iowa County Sheriff's Office of death; request medical examiner to be contacted and officer to be dispatched to scene.
- 2) If crime scene, every effort should be made to preserve the scene. Do only necessary steps to determine if the patient is D.O.A.
- 3) Notify Medical Control with brief patient report.
- 4) Obtain EKG Strip for documentation.
- 5) Offer comfort to family and assure their well being
- 6) Gather appropriate patient information for documentation on ambulance run report. Report should also include:
 - a) Time when medical control notified of death
 - b) Time when sheriff's office notified of death
 - c) Arrival time of medical examiner to scene, if appropriate.
 - d) Time patient released to officer and/or funeral director.
- 7) After exam and release by medical examiner and providing no officer is available, contact funeral home of family choice. (EMS or law enforcement must stay with the body until released to funeral home staff.)
- 8) If medical examiner has delayed ETA, the ambulance personnel may, at the direction of the Medical Examiner or law enforcement after making contact with the medical examiner, transport the body to the Marengo Memorial Hospital or funeral home to await the Medical Examiner.

Obvious Death

- When signs of obvious death (physical decomposition, rigor mortis, mottling, etc.) it may not be necessary to obtain an EKG strip or notify medical control. Document reason of obvious death and why no resuscitation was initiated.
- Medical Examiner should be contacted and all other steps above should be followed.