

**Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office
615 Stokke parkway
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751
715-232-1348 715-231-2906**

Appendix A

**Protocol for Pronouncement of Death Outside of a
Hospital Or Nursing Home**

The Dunn County Medical Examiner's Office has established the following protocol for the pronouncement of death outside of a hospital or nursing home:

1. Pronouncement of death shall be made by the Medical Examiner, Deputy Medical Examiner, or a Physician licensed in the State of Wisconsin, following a personal exam of the decedent.
2.
 - A. Upon the death of a person registered with a hospice program that is licensed by the State Dept. of health and Social Services, HSS 131, a Hospice Registered Nurse (HRN) may pronounce the time, date and place of death. The time of death shall be the actual time the clinical observations were personally made by the HRN. The HRN shall be responsible for the Notice of Removal Form , and certifying the time, date and place of death on the death certificate only. It is unlawful for anyone other than a physician, coroner, or medical examiner to certify cause and manner of death. Please make notification to our office at the time of any hospice program pronouncement and provide the patient's name, diagnosis, physician and funeral home.
3. All deaths, other than hospice, that occur outside of a hospital or nursing home, are reportable to the DCME's Office. The decedent shall not be moved or manipulated in any way without permission from the ME or DME. Remember that in reportable cases we are obligated to treat all of these scenes as homicides until proven otherwise. Scene and possible evidence preservation is of the utmost importance during the initial phases of our investigation. Every effort shall be made to limit scene alteration or contamination.

Revised 31 August 2012

Chris H. Kruse, Dunn County Chief ME