

GENERAL ORDER 41.4.12

Unattended Death

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes a procedure covering the response and investigation of unattended deaths.

DISCUSSION

None.

POLICY

I

Where a call of an unattended death is received, an officer shall respond to the location and conduct an investigation and report on the incident.

It is the policy of the Springfield Police Department that all unattended death cases be investigated to rule out the possibility of foul play. The officer shall conduct a routine crime scene investigation to include photographs and necessary evidence collection.

The report of the incident shall include all names of individuals contacted including any medical personnel summoned to the location, the reporting person, and all pertinent information, which should include, but is not limited to;

- A) The deceased's personal physician and date of last visit.
- B) Medical history including recent physical condition.
- C) Current medications or other drug or alcohol use.
- D) Conditions of the residence or death scene.
- E) A general description of the deceased, including location, clothing, positioning, activity at time of death and any other factor of significance.

If the investigation reveals evidence that indicates the person did not die of natural causes, the officer shall contact ISB to respond and assist in the investigation. If there is evidence of a crime related to the death, the investigation shall be turned over to ISB for processing.

II

Following the preliminary investigation of a case, the Medical Examiner's Office shall be notified and apprised of the situation. Moving or removal of the body shall not take place until permission is obtained from the Medical Examiner. The officer shall document the location the body was transported.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police