

Deadline of Submission of Comments: 10-Feb-25

Document Number: ANSI/ASB BPR 209

Document Title: Best Practice Recommendations for Communicating with Next of Kin during Medicolegal Death Investigations

Comment #	Text Line # (s)	Document Section	Type of Comment	Current Document Wording	Proposed Revision	Revision Justification	For Working Group and Consensus Body use only, not to be completed by commenter.
			E-Editorial T-Technical				Final Resolution
1	77	4.3.3	T	The MDI authority should convey preliminary	The MDI authority or reprenetative should convey preliminary	the definition of MDI authority is essentially THE coroner/ME and legally authorized Investigators, and this may be another member of the staff, like a family assistance coordinator. Alternatively, to encompass this for all statements you could add osme language in 4.1 (lines 60-61, like addition of, and if performed by other represnetaives of the MDI authority, the same shall apply. or to include any MDI authoirty staff performing such actions. I really see it as an issue in 4.8.1; I am only going to include this one comemnt but it does apply any time MDI authoirty is called out within the recommendations.	Reject- representative is repetitive. MDI authority encompasses those who are qualified to represent.
2	126	4.8.2	T	Complicated postmortem findings should be communicated by the forensic pathologist	Remove sentence	A compormise could be "The chief medicolegall officer should have the option available to have the forensic pathologist communicate complicated postmortem findings when necessary". In many offices around the country the FP is contracted solely to perform an autopsy and does not have access to case files or additional information about the case and to attempt to speak to the family without the background on the case would be wrong. Additionally their legal jurisdiction to conduct investigation or conduct intereviews may be limited or non existent, and as an agent of the MDI office they do not have the right to speak for the office; additionally they may not be contracted to do so, as the MDI authority may contract with a FP service provider rather than individual FPs.. In many situations the MDI authority (who may be an MD or MDI) may be able to better speak to the family about findings without medical jargo that some FPs may rely upon. Additionally, many FPs lack bedside manner and the MDI authority may decide that the best person to interact with the family is NOT the FP due to this lack of tack to speak to families. Another compromise could be to emphasize the complicated findings piece, but for a BPR that leave a lot to interpretation and I'm not sure how this is measurable, as complicated to one person may be routine to another. I understand this is written to prevent 100% no contact with FP policies, but it is vague and often NOT in the best interest of those served.	Reject- The statement "should" if the FP is available and willing as a Best Practice, recognizing this is not an option for every agency
3	119	4.7.2	T	Next of kin should be provided the medicolegal report(s), if desired and legally allowed. Medicolegal death investigation reports may include postmortem examination reports, medicolegal death investigative reports, toxicology reports, and other ancillary testing or consultation reports.	There should be a sentence or section wherein providers of ancillary testing or consultation reports have guidance on the proper way to speak to next of kin and what topics are off limits. For example, when next of kin are provided toxicology reports there are many instances that a toxicologist is called upon to discuss this specific report with next of kin.	As a forensic toxicologist I know that myself and many of my colleagues speak to next of kin frequently. In my situation it occurs only after obtaining written permission from the client that submitted the testing.	Reject- outside of the scope of the document
4	221	Annex D		ACADEMIC DISHONESTY INCIDENT REPORT form	Family Brochures	The last entry on Annex D/MEC Office Brochure Examples says "ACADEMIC DISHONESTY INCIDENT REPORT form," presumably taken from the first document in the linked google drive. It appears this document may have been erroneously included among the drive contents. It looks like the actual title of the drive folder is "Family Brochures."	Accept- renamed to correct folder name"Family Brochure Folder", removed Academic Dishonesty link
5	48	3.8		Individual who performs medicolegal death investigations and includes those who have not completed the requirements for certification and is not certified	...are not certified	Better subject-verb agreement (those... are). You could also replace the first "and" with a semicolon (i.e., "Individual who performs medicolegal death investigations; includes those who have not completed the requirements for certification and are not certified.")	Accept
6			Ballot Comment	abstaining, comment resolution for submitted to ASB, particularly on the section about FPs speaking to family.			Noted