



**2-21 APPARENT NATURAL DEATH/SUICIDE OF AN ADULT**

**Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):**

A. Related SOP(s)

- 2-73 Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items (Formerly 2-08)
- 2-92 Crimes Against Children Investigations (Formerly 2-33)

B. Form(s)

PD 3066 Apparent Natural Death Worksheet (In TraCS)

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

SO 14-70 Response to Apparent Natural Deaths

**2-21-1 Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures for Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel when responding to and investigating apparent adult natural deaths and suicides.

**2-21-2 Policy**

It is the policy of the Department to investigate any adult apparent natural death or suicide to document the cause(s) of such deaths and to ensure that no evidence is lost or concealed.

**N/A 2-21-3 Definitions**

A. Next of Kin

The nearest relative, spouse, child, parent, or sibling of person who is under investigation.

**7 2-21-4 Procedures**

A. Apparent Natural Death

1. For all apparent adult natural death calls, except calls for service where a death occurs in a hospital, hospice, or nursing home, sworn personnel shall:



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- a. Check for signs of life;
- b. Investigate the incident;
- c. Complete a Uniform Incident Report;
- d. Complete the Apparent Natural Death Worksheet;
- e. Call the Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) for all unattended deaths, including apparent overdoses; and
  - i. Sworn personnel shall call a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) to the scene if OMI verifies the death to be suspicious.
- f. Coordinate with the OMI to make the next of kin/death notification and document that they coordinated with the OMI in their Uniform Incident Report.
  - i. An officer shall only make a next of kin/death notification when accompanied by another officer.
  - ii. Sworn personnel may request that the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) dispatch a Chaplain to assist in the next of kin/death notification.
    1. Telephonic next of kin/death notifications do not require a second officer.

**B. Apparent Suicide**

**1. For all apparent suicides, sworn personnel shall:**

- a. Secure the scene;
- b. Conduct a preliminary investigation;
  - i. Sworn personnel shall take statements from witnesses if witnesses are present.
- c. Request that a CSS respond to the scene;
  - i. After confirming through OMI that the death is by suicide, only the investigating CSS shall make arrangements with the Evidence/Disposition Unit for the release of evidence to the family, consistent with SOP Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items (refer to SOP Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items for sanction classifications and additional duties).
- d. Request that OMI respond to the scene; and
  - i. Sworn personnel shall coordinate with OMI to make the next of kin/death notification and document that information in their Uniform Incident Report.
- e. Make the next of kin/death notification when accompanied by another officer.
  - i. Sworn personnel may call a Chaplain to assist in the next of kin/death notification.
    1. Telephonic next of kin/death notifications do not require a second officer.

**N/A**

**2. The dispatched supervisor shall ensure that the investigation is comprehensive and complete.**

**N/A**

- C. Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) Detectives investigate child deaths, when the child is seventeen (17) years old or younger, consistent with SOP Crimes Against Children Investigations (refer to SOP Crimes Against Children Investigations for sanction classifications and additional duties).**



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1. CACU Detectives shall not respond to the scene or investigate the suicide of juveniles between the ages of thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) unless suspicious circumstances exist.
2. CACU Detectives shall investigate all suicides of juveniles twelve (12) years old or younger.
3. FSB sworn personnel shall conduct a full investigation and remain the case agent for non-suspicious suicides of juveniles between the ages of thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) in the same manner as the suicide of an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older.

REDLINED



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### Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

2-73 Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items (Formerly 2-08)

~~5-4 Juvenile Section~~ 2-92 Crimes Against Children Investigations (Formerly 2-33)

B. Form(s)

PD 3066 Apparent Natural Death Worksheet (In TraCS)

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

SO 14-70 Response to Apparent Natural Deaths

### 2-21-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures for Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel when responding to and investigating apparent adult natural deaths and suicides.

### 2-21-2 Policy

It is the policy of the ~~Albuquerque Police Department~~ (Department) to investigate any adult apparent natural death or suicide to document the cause(s) of such deaths s and to ensure that no evidence is lost or concealed.

**N/A** 2-21-3 Definitions

A. ~~Next of Kin~~ Next of Kin

The nearest relative, spouse, child, parent, or sibling of person who is under investigation.

None

**7** 2-21-4 Procedures

A. Apparent Natural Death



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1. For all apparent adult natural death calls, except calls for service where a death occurs in a hospital, hospice, or nursing home, ~~the dispatched officer~~ sworn personnel shall:
  - a. Check for signs of life;
  - b. Investigate the incident;
  - c. ~~and e~~ Complete the a Uniform incident Incident # Report;
  - ~~b.d.~~ and the Form Complete the Apparent Natural Death Worksheet;
  - ~~e.e.~~ Call the Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) for all unattended deaths, including apparent overdoses; and
    - i. ~~Sworn personnel~~ Sworn personnel shall call a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) to the scene if OMI ~~deems~~ verifies the death to be suspicious; ~~and~~
  - f. Coordinate with the OMI on to make the next of kin/ death notification and document that they coordinated with the OMI in their Uniform Incident report Report.
    - i. ~~The dispatched officer~~ Sworn personnel An officer shall only make a death next of kin/ death notification when accompanied by another officer.
    - ii. ~~The dispatched officer~~ Sworn personnel Sworn personnel may ~~call~~ request that the Emergency Communications Center (ECC) dispatch a for a Chaplain ~~to~~ to assist in the next of kin/ death notification.
      - ~~d.1.~~ Telephonic death next of kin/ death notifications do not require a second officer.

B. Apparent Suicide

1. For all apparent suicides, ~~the dispatched officer~~ sworn personnel shall:
  - ~~a. Be responsible for s~~ Securing the scene;
  - ~~a. and conducting the investigation;~~
  - b. Conduct a preliminary investigation;
    - i. Sworn personnel shall Take take statements, from witnesses if witnesses are present;.
  - c. Request that ~~OMI~~ a CSS respond to the scene;
    - i. After confirming through OMI that the death is a by suicide, only the investigating CSS shall make arrangements with the Evidence/Disposition Unit for the release of evidence to the family, consistent with SOP Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items (refer to SOP Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items for sanction classifications and additional duties).
  - d. Request that OMI respond to the scene; and
    - i. ~~Sworn personnel shall~~ Coordinate with OMI on to make the next of kin/ death notification and document that information in their Uniform Incident Report. Coordinate with OMI on the next of kin notification and document in the report Uniform Incident Report.
    - ~~d.i.~~ Request a CSS. After confirming through OMI that the death is a suicide, only the investigating CSS shall make arrangements with the Evidence/Disposition Unit for the release of evidence to the family,

N/A



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~~consistent with SOP Submission of Evidence, Confiscated Property, and Found Items Collection, Submission, and Disposition of Evidence and Property, and~~

- e. Make the next of kin/death notification when accompanied by another officer.
  - i. ~~The officer~~ Sworn personnel may call a Chaplain to assist in the next of kin/death notification.
    - ~~e.~~ 1. Telephonic next of kin/death notifications do not require a second officer.

- 2. The dispatched supervisor shall ensure that the investigation is comprehensive and complete.

N/A

~~C. The Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) Detectives~~ investigates all child deaths, when the child is seventeen (17) years old or younger, consistent with SOP ~~Juvenile Section~~ Special Victims Section Crimes Against Children Investigations (refer to SOP Crimes Against Children Investigations for sanction classifications and additional duties).

- 1. CACU Detectives shall not respond to the scene or investigate the suicide of juveniles between the ages of thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) unless suspicious circumstances exist.

- 2. CACU Detectives shall investigate all suicides of juveniles twelve (12) years old and/or under younger.

- ~~C.~~ 3. FSB sworn personnel shall conduct a full investigation and remain the case agent for non-suspicious suicides of juveniles between the ages of thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) in the same manner as the suicide of an individual eighteen (18) years of age or older.