



## 2-21 APPARENT NATURAL DEATH/SUICIDE

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

A. Related SOP(s)

None

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

None

### 2-21-2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline procedure for apparent natural deaths and suicides

### 2-21-3 Policy

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

### 2-21-4 Definitions

None

### ~~2-21-4~~ 2-21-5 Procedures

A. Apparent Natural Death

- 6 1. For all apparent natural death calls, except calls where a death occurs in a hospital or nursing home, the dispatched officer will:
  - a. Check the body for signs of life.
  - b. Investigate the incident and complete the incident report, and the Apparent Natural Death Worksheet (PD 3066).
  - c. Attempt to contact the deceased's physician if it is known that the deceased was under a doctor's care.
  - d. Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) will be called to all unattended deaths.



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- i. If OMI deems the death suspicious, a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) will be called to the scene.
- e. Coordinate with OMI on next of kin notification and document in the report. The officer will only make death notification accompanied by a Chaplain or another officer.

B. Suicide

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1. For all suicides, the dispatched officer will:

- a. Request that the OMI respond to the scene.
- b. Request a ~~Crime Scene Specialist (CSS)~~.
- c. Conduct a preliminary investigation.
- d. Take statements, if witnesses are present.
- e. ~~Be responsible for the crime scene and the investigation.~~ Be responsible for securing the scene and conducting the investigation.

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- f. Coordinate with OMI on next of kin notification and document in the report. The officer will only make death notification accompanied by a Chaplain or another officer.
- g. ~~After determining that the death is a suicide, the investigating CSS will make arrangements with the Evidence Unit for the release of any evidence to the family.~~ After confirming, through OMI, that the death is a suicide, only the investigating CSS will make arrangements with the Evidence Unit for the release of ant evidence to the family.

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