

Deaths that should be referred to the Medical Examiner (adapted from RSA 611-B:11)

- All accidental deaths, suicides and homicides
- All trauma deaths and fatal complications of trauma, regardless of the time interval between the traumatic event and death (e.g. pneumonia complicating near-drowning, pulmonary embolism while convalescing from fractured hip, urosepsis complicating traumatic spinal cord injury).

If any injury caused or contributed to death (e.g. fractured hip), then the death should be referred to the Medical Examiner.
- Any death known or suspected to have occurred during or as a result of any criminal act including natural deaths (e.g. myocardial infarction during or shortly after robbery).
- Poison or drug overdose and fatal complications of overdose (e.g. liver failure following acetaminophen overdose, hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy following opioid overdose).
- Disease, injury, or toxic exposure resulting from or occurring during the course of employment
- Any death associated with a disease or agent that constitutes a public health or environmental hazard, including fatal infection of unknown etiology in a previously healthy person.
- Sudden unexpected death, under age 60 years, when in apparent good health
- Deaths while in legal custody including natural deaths (e.g. cancer, heart disease).
- Death associated with diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, including intraoperative and perioperative deaths
- Any death that occurs less than 24 hours after admission to the healthcare facility unless known to be terminally ill from natural disease and death is expected
- Death of a child unless known to be terminally ill
- Fetal deaths associated with intrauterine trauma and/or maternal drug intoxication when the fetus has attained 20 weeks gestation or 350 grams weight
- Death of an unidentified person regardless of cause and manner
- Suspicious or unusual circumstances surrounding a presumed natural death

If the Medical Examiner accepts jurisdiction for a death, only the pronouncement section of the death certificate should be completed by healthcare facility staff.

If it's not clear if a case should be referred to the Medical Examiner, refer it.