

<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES – 300.23</b>		
<b>APPROVAL:</b>	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/2016</b>	<b>CURRENT REVIEW/REVISION DATE: 8/16</b>	<b>SUPERSEDES: N/A</b>	<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

To define guidelines for notification of the coroner/medical examiner.

**II. Policy:**

Personnel of the Morris Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System, whether operating at a basic, intermediate, or advanced life support level, are required to immediately initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) whenever clinical signs of a pre-morbid state exist.

The medical examiner and/or law enforcement agency having jurisdiction must be notified or informed of any dead body of any person found within their respective areas.

**III. Procedure:**

- A. In situations where gross indications are conclusive that death has occurred (e.g. decomposition, decapitation, etc.), the pre-hospital providers shall contact Medical Control for the decision whether or not on scene care is to be initiated.
  1. If Medical Control advises it is not necessary to initiate resuscitative measures the pre-hospital provider will notify the appropriate medical examiner and/or law enforcement agency.
  2. If Medical Control advises to initiate resuscitative measures, the pre-hospital provider will do so in accordance with protocols and transport to the receiving facility.
- B. Whenever presented with a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order, always begin BLS assessment while simultaneously contacting Medical Control to have the DNR order reviewed and approved by the approved base station emergency department physician.
- C. In an attempt to assure preservation of possible evidence at a crime scene, the pre-hospital providers should avoid unnecessarily disturbing the scene, or abandoning the body or scene until proper authorities arrive (see Policy [300.15 Crime Scene Response](#)).
- D. When law enforcement officers are on scene, ambulances may return to service if, and when, a valid DNR order for that patient is documented or resuscitation is not initiated as explicit signs biological death (triple zero) exist and confirmation has been obtained by Medical Control.
- E. The hospital will be responsible for notifying the medical examiner for any patients received in the emergency department.

