

Memorandum

To: Funeral Directors via Bereavement Authority of Ontario

From: Alexandra Schmidt
Deputy Registrar General

Date: August 23, 2021

Re: Coroner Investigators' permanent authority to sign and copy MCODs

I am writing to inform you that effective August 18, 2021, changes to Regulation 1094 of the *Vital Statistics Act* will permanently authorize active registered nurses and nurse practitioners appointed as coroner investigators under section 16.1 of the Coroner's Act, to complete, sign and copy Medical Certificates of Death (MCODs), including electronic Medical Certificates of Death (eMCODs).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency order was made in May 2020 to temporarily grant registered nurses and nurse practitioners appointed as coroner investigators as of May 1, 2020, with the authority to complete, sign, and copy MCODs. Permanently expanding this authority will maintain operational efficiencies gained under the temporary authority and reduce strain and burden on coroners, physicians, and authorized nurse practitioners.

As such, the fillable PDF and paper versions of the MCOD have been updated to include additional information in the instructions, and field 27 of the form now includes a separate box for Coroner Investigators. No changes have been made to the eMCOD as this form will continue to be used until the electronic death registration initiative is implemented. Coroner investigators may continue completing this form.

The regulatory changes also clarify that:

- coroner investigators are permitted to sign MCODs and eMCODs for deaths that they investigate;
- only coroners can sign MCODs and eMCODs for deaths that were investigated by a coroner; and
- copying MCODs and eMCODs will also be allowed when death registrations are completed as a result of family-led death care instead of the families using a funeral home.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation. If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact Shelly Dolph, Operations Manager at: (807) 343-7557.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Schmidt
Deputy Registrar General / (A) Assistant Deputy Minister, Central Services Division
ServiceOntario

- c. Carey Smith, Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Bereavement Authority of Ontario
David Brazeau, Communications Manager, Bereavement Authority of Ontario
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
David Arbuckle, Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
Kelly McCarthy, City of Toronto
Allan Thompson, Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Marc Gagnon, L'Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario