

	KENOSHA POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	POLICY AND PROCEDURE			
	42.5 Death Investigations			
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I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Kenosha Police Department that all deaths occurring in the city will be investigated thoroughly and completely. Deaths that occur in nursing homes and hospitals that are not suspicious shall not invoke this policy.

II. PROCEDURES

A. Preliminary Action

1. An officer and an on duty patrol supervisor will be notified of the incident and shall respond to conduct and coordinate initial investigative efforts.
2. The Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office will be notified of the death.
3. The scene will be secured as soon as possible.
4. The detective bureau will be notified and a detective will be assigned to the case if suspicious circumstances exist.

B. On-Scene Investigation

1. Maintain scene security and do not disturb body.
2. Follow Crime Scene Procedures if suspicious circumstances are found.
3. Maintain security of body until Medical Examiner takes over possession.
4. Interview witnesses and obtain statements where warranted.
5. Assist the Medical Examiner as needed.

C. Role of Medical Examiner

1. Determine the cause of death.
2. Take possession of the body.
3. Control the property of the deceased person.
4. Direct the disposition of the body.
5. Notify next of kin.

D. Off Scene Responsibilities

1. An officer will respond to the morgue and secure the body.

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2. If an autopsy is to be performed, the deceased must be fingerprinted for identification purposes if they can be obtained.
3. The initial responding officer will complete a detailed incident report.
4. Conduct any necessary follow-up investigation per current policy and procedure.