

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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CHAPTER 707
DEATHS AND BURIALS

Sec.

2841. Registration of fetal deaths.

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§ 2841. Registration of fetal deaths

Except as authorized by the department a certificate of each fetal death which occurs in this State shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality where the delivery occurred within 3 days after delivery and prior to removal of the fetus from the State.

1. Certificate filed by funeral director. The funeral director or person acting as such who first assumes custody of the fetus shall be responsible for filing the certificate. In the absence of such a person, the physician or other person in attendance at or after the delivery shall be responsible for filing the certificate. He shall obtain the personal data from the best qualified person or source available and shall present the certificate to the person responsible for completing the medical certification of the cause of death.

2. Medical certificate by physician. The medical certification shall be completed and signed within 24 hours after delivery by the physician in attendance at or after the delivery except when an inquiry as to the cause of fetal death is required by law.

3. Medical certificate by medical examiner. When the fetal death occurs without medical attendance upon the mother at or after delivery, or when inquiry as to the cause of fetal death is required by law, the medical examiner shall complete and sign the medical certification within 24 hours after delivery.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 383; 1959, c. 291, § 4.

§ 2842. Registration of deaths

Except as authorized by the department, a certificate of each death which occurs in this State shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality where death occurred within 3 days after the

day on which death occurred and prior to the removal of the body from the State.

1. Certificate filed by funeral director. The funeral director or other person in charge of the disposition of the dead human body or its removal from the State shall be responsible for filing the certificate. He shall obtain the personal data from the best qualified person or source available and he shall present the certificate to the physician or medical examiner responsible for completing the medical certification of the cause of death.

2. Medical certificate by physician. The medical certification of the cause of death shall be completed and signed within 24 hours after death by the physician in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when an inquiry as to the cause of death is required by law.

3. Medical certificate by medical examiner. When death occurs without medical attendance, or when inquiry as to the cause of death is required by law, the medical examiner shall complete and sign the medical certification and verify or provide the date of death within 24 hours after death.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 382; 1955, c. 326, § 3; 1959, c. 291, § 3.

§ 2843. Permits for final disposition of dead human bodies

Except as authorized by the department, no dead human body shall be buried, cremated or otherwise disposed of, or removed from the State, until the person in charge of such final disposition or removal has obtained a permit from the clerk of the municipality where death occurred.

1. Permit for transportation. Each dead human body transported into this State for final disposition shall be accompanied by a permit issued by the duly constituted authority at the place of death. Such permit shall be sufficient authority for final disposition in any place where dead human bodies are disposed of in this State.

2. Permit for removal. Except as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, no dead human body shall be disinterred or removed from any vault or tomb until the person in charge of such disinterment or removal has obtained a permit from the clerk of the municipality where such dead human body is buried or entombed.

3. Permit for burial. The person in charge of each burying ground or crematory in this State shall endorse each such per-

mit with which he is presented, and return it to the clerk of the municipality in which such burying ground or crematory is located within 7 days after the date of burial.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 386; 1957, c. 298, § 3.

§ 2844. Subregistrars

The town or city clerk may appoint 2 or more suitable and proper persons in each town or city as subregistrars, who shall be authorized to issue burial permits and permits for transportation of dead human bodies based upon a death certificate, in the same manner as is required of the town or city clerk. The said death certificate upon which the permit is issued shall be forwarded to the town clerk within 6 days after receiving the same, and all permits by whomsoever issued shall be returned to the town clerk as required by section 2843. The appointment of subregistrars shall be made with reference to locality, so as to best suit the convenience of the inhabitants of the town, and such appointment shall be in writing and recorded in the office of the town or city clerk. The subregistrars in any town shall hold office at the pleasure of the town clerk.

R.S.1954, c. 25, § 388.