WHEN

When do I report to the Coroner?

You must report the death of a resident to the coroner when:

* The death is sudden, such as a resident that appeared in good health 1-2 days before their death; death following therapeutic complications;
* The circumstances indicate the death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means, such as a fall resulting in recent head injuries; significant pressure ulcers;
* The death occurs under suspicious circumstances;
* The death is caused by any violence whatsoever;
* An autopsy, post mortem or inquest is to be held;
* The death results from unknown or obscure causes;
* The death is caused by alleged rape or other sexual crimes;
* The death is due to a contagious or suspected contagious disease, such as a sudden illness with a high fever or rash right before death;
* The death apparently resulted from drowning, hanging, exposure; strangulation; starvation, alcoholism, suffocation or smothering; or
* The death occurred within a year after a resident suffered burns or was in an accident resulting in physical injury.

Chapter 68.50 RCW

Remember:

If you are unsure whether a resident death should be reported: REPORT!

WHERE

Your Responsibilities as a Mandated Reporter

Helpful answers to important commonly asked questions...

WHO

Is a Mandated Reporter?
Is a Vulnerable Adult?

WHAT

Do I Need to Report?

WHEN

Do I Report?
Abuse, Neglect, Abandonment, Financial Exploitation, Resident Death

WHERE

Do I Find Contacts & Resources?

Prepared in cooperation by:
DSHS Residential Care Services
WA Assoc. of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs
WA Assoc. of Coroners

Department of Social & Health Services
Local Law Enforcement
County Coroner
When do I report to DSHP?

1-800-562-6078

Call the DSHP Hotline

When do I report to DSHP?

If you are a mandated reporter and have reasonable grounds to believe abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or physical assault has occurred to an elderly or vulnerable adult, you must immediately report to the department. This includes physical assault, financial exploitation, or any other form of mistreatment that places the elderly or vulnerable adult in danger. If you suspect any form of mistreatment or abuse, contact the department immediately. You may also report to law enforcement.

What do I need to report?

- Sudden change in a will or a transfer of assets
- Disappearance of personal or financial exploitation possessions
- Unfit condition of an elderly or vulnerable adult
- Financial exploitation
- Unfit condition of an elderly or vulnerable adult
- Unlawful confinement of an elderly or vulnerable adult
- Unlawful change in physical health, such as weight loss
- Possible signs of neglect or self-neglect
- Possible signs of abuse or sexual assault

Who is a mandated reporter?

- A law enforcement officer
- A health care provider
- A social worker
- Any other employee of a social service agency
- An employee of a long-term care facility
- A hospital employee
- An employee of a licensed health care facility
- A school employee
- A county coroner or medical examiner
- A county social services director
- A county or state health department

Who is a licensed health care facility?

- A hospital
- A nursing home
- A residential care facility
- A licensed hospice
- Any other facility licensed by the state

Who is a professional school personnel?

- A school superintendent
- A school principal
- A teacher
- A school counselor
- A guidance counselor
- A school psychologist
- A school nurse
- A school social worker
- An employee of a school district

Who is a professional school personnel?

- An employee of a school district
- A school superintendent
- A school principal
- A teacher
- A school counselor
- A guidance counselor
- A school psychologist
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