

SENATE FILE NO. SF0021

Death certificates.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Baldwin, Peterson and Wasserburger  
and Representative(s) Barlow, Larsen and  
Lindholm

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to vital records; providing that an  
2 advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant  
3 may complete the medical certification of a death  
4 certificate as specified; and providing for an effective  
5 date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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9 **Section 1.** W.S. 35-1-418(c) and by creating a new  
10 subsection (d) is amended to read:

11

12 **35-1-418. Death registration.**

13

14 (c) The medical certification shall be completed and  
15 signed within a reasonable time after death by the

1 ~~physician~~ primary health care provider in charge of the  
2 patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted  
3 in death, except when inquiry is required by the postmortem  
4 examination. If the death occurred without medical  
5 attendance or if the ~~physician~~ primary health care provider  
6 last in attendance refuses or for any reason fails to sign  
7 the certificate immediately, the funeral director or person  
8 acting as funeral director shall notify the appropriate  
9 local registrar. In that event the local registrar shall  
10 inform the local health officer and refer the case to him  
11 for immediate investigation and certification of cause of  
12 death prior to issuing a permit for burial, cremation or  
13 other disposition of the body. If the circumstances of the  
14 case suggest that the death was caused by other than  
15 natural causes, the local registrar shall refer the case to  
16 the coroner for investigation and certification. The  
17 coroner shall examine the body and consider the history of  
18 the case, and obtain the assistance and advice of a  
19 competent physician who will assist the coroner in  
20 determining the cause of death by examination of the body,  
21 autopsy, inquest or other procedure determined necessary.  
22 The nonmedical coroner shall not diagnose the cause of  
23 death without the assistance and advice of a competent

1 physician. The coroner or local health officer shall  
2 complete and sign the medical certification within a  
3 reasonable time after taking charge of the case.

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5 (d) For purposes of this section, "primary health  
6 care provider" means as defined in W.S. 35-22-402(a)(xiv).

7

8 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

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(END)