

### ***When to Call the Medical Examiner***

1. In all Medical Examiner cases the body should not be removed or prepared in any way without the permission of the ME or designee. DO NOT REMOVE ANY LINES, DRAINS, OR AIRWAY UNTIL AUTHORIZED BY THE M.E.!!!!!!
2. WV Code 61-12-8 mandates the following deaths be immediately reported to the county or State Medical Examiner or County Coroner (pronouncing MD is to call MECCA 304.599.6382
  - a. Deaths resulting directly or indirectly from conditions or injuries received as a result of an accident, homicide, or suicide or a reasonable suspicion of death due to an accident, homicide, or suicide. The length of time between death and the injury is irrelevant.
  - b. Any death associated with evidence of physical abuse or suspected abuse or neglect of a child or any incapacitated or incompetent individual.
  - c. A sudden death for those <65 that does not allow the MD to reasonably infer that the death was caused by natural disease process.
  - d. Any death where a reasonable suspicion that there exists an underlying contagious disease that may constitute a threat to public health or safety.
  - e. Any death thought to be due to or arising out of complications of drug abuse/intoxication.
  - f. Any death during or associated with a therapeutic procedure where the death may have resulted from a complication or the procedure, treatment or therapy.
  - g. Any death occurring as the result or of associated with, during, or following police intervention, transport, or custody, or death during court ordered custody or incarceration, even if reasonably due to natural causes.
  - h. Deaths occurring in state mental institutions or nursing homes when the death is not solely due to natural causes or there may be gross neglect.
  - i. Sudden or unexpected death within 24 hours of admission to a hospital.
3. It is not a requirement to notify the ME for deaths that occur within 24 hours or hospitalization that do not fall into the above category.