

## House File 393

### To allow physician assistants or advanced registered nurse practitioners to sign a death certificate – effective with July 1, 2011, death events.

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Following are the affected Code sections, with the changes from the 2011 session underlined.

#### 142C Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act

##### 142C.8 Rights and duties of procurement organizations and donors. *(subsection 10)*

10. The physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner who attends the decedent at death and the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner who determines the time of death shall not participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a part from the decedent.

#### 144 Vital Statistics

##### 144.26 Death certificate. *(subsections 1a and 1b)*

1 a. A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed as directed by the state registrar within three days after the death and prior to final disposition, and shall be registered by the county registrar if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this chapter. A death certificate shall include the social security number, if provided, of the deceased person. All information including the certifying physician's, physician's assistant's, or advanced registered nurse practitioner's name shall be typewritten.

b. A physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner authorized to sign a death certificate shall be licensed in this state and shall have been in charge of the deceased patient's care.

##### 144.28 Medical certification. *(subsections 1a and 1e)*

1. a. For the purposes of this section, "nonnatural cause of death" means the death is a direct or indirect result of physical, chemical, thermal, or electrical trauma, or drug or alcohol intoxication or other poisoning.

b. Unless there is a nonnatural cause of death, the medical certification shall be completed and signed by the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death within seventy-two hours after receipt of the death certificate from the funeral director or individual who initially assumes custody of the body.

e. If upon inquiry into a death, the county or state medical examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802, subsection 3, the medical examiner may elect to defer to the physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner in charge of the patient's preexisting condition the certification of the cause of death.