

DOC 620.200 Death of Incarcerated Individuals

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Comments Submitted 7/16/2021

- III.C.2. We request that OCO is added to the list of agencies that receive the report/form no later than the next business day following the death.
- IV. A. 1. The policy states that "[t]he Chief Medical Officer/designee will also be notified of non-violent deaths." OCO suggests that this section is changed to ensure that the CMO is notified of all deaths, violent or non-violent.
- IV.C. If death occurs at a work release facility, will a death report be entered by anyone into any section of individual's electronic file?
- V. A. The revised policy states that "[a] list of persons to be notified in the event of a serious injury, illness, or death will be maintained in each individual's central file." OCO suggests that DOC update this list on a regular basis (e.g. annually) so that the information is accurate and up-to-date. OCO recently reviewed a case where DOC could not reach the family because the phone number was disconnected, so the family never learned about the person's illness due to COVID, and never learned about his death. We note that V.A.1. directs staff to request an updated list when an individual is seriously ill in the IPU or the special needs unit; we believe regular updating would be a preferred practice.