

Rules of
Department of Health
Division 40—Division of Maternal, Child and
Family Health
Chapter 3—The Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
(SIDS) Program

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**Title 19—DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH**

**Division 40—Division of Maternal, Child
and Family Health**

**Chapter 3—The Sudden Infant Death
Syndrome (SIDS) Program**

**19 CSR 40-3.010 Administration of the
SIDS Program**

PURPOSE: State law mandates—an autopsy at state expense on any infant who dies suddenly when in apparent good health, the use of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome as cause of death on death certificates when autopsy results confirm this, prompt notification of autopsy results and provision of information regarding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to the parent(s) or guardian(s). This rule provides procedures for meeting these requirements.

(1) In the event of the sudden and unexplained death of any infant one (1) week to one (1) year of age—

(A) The coroner or medical examiner shall advise the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the deceased infant that an autopsy shall be performed at state expense for the purpose of confirming Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). For a SIDS autopsy, the coroner or medical examiner shall notify the nearest child death pathologist who has been certified by the Missouri Department of Health and shall arrange for an autopsy. Pathologists certified by, and following the protocols of, the Department of Social Services State Technical Assistance Team shall be deemed certified by the Department of Health;

(B) The pathologist who performs this autopsy shall report in writing the preliminary results to the coroner or medical examiner who authorized the autopsy. The pathologist or coroner/medical examiner shall comply with the reporting requirements of the State Technical Assistance Team, Child Fatality Review Program;

(C) The certified child death pathologist shall ensure that a tangible summary of the autopsy results is provided to the parents or guardian of the child and shall provide informational material on the subject of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to the family within one week after the autopsy is performed. Performed is defined as the completion of the autopsy including, but not limited to, laboratory results and any other testing, as indicated. The certified child death pathologist shall, upon request by the parents or guardian, release the full autopsy results to the parents, guardian, or family physician in cases of suspected Sudden Infant Death Syndrome within

thirty (30) days of such request. The tangible summary and full autopsy report shall be provided at no cost to the parents or guardian. The Department of Health will develop a form letter which shall include a statement informing the parents or guardians of the right to receive the full autopsy results in cases of suspected Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and such letter shall be used by the child death pathologist to communicate this information to the parents or guardians. A copy of the child death pathologist's letter shall be sent to the Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health. The Department of Health shall provide the required informational material to be included with the form letter to the child death pathologists at no charge;

(D) The Missouri Department of Health shall pay for non-Medicaid SIDS autopsies at the same rate as that paid for SIDS autopsies covered by Medicaid. The Missouri Department of Health shall pay for transportation of the body to and from the nearest facility utilized by the pathologist at the actual cost of said transportation up to but not to exceed a maximum of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). Any additional fee charged by the pathologist shall not be paid by the family; and

(E) The medical examiner or coroner shall notify the medical certifier of the autopsy finding. The medical certifier, by affidavit, shall authorize a correction on the death certificate within ten (10) days of notification from the medical examiner or coroner.

(2) The Missouri Department of Health, coroners and medical examiners, within their current limits of confidentiality, without revealing the identity of the family of the autopsied infant, may release to qualified investigators medical information gained from autopsies to be utilized in scientific research.

AUTHORITY: section 194.117, RSMo Supp. 1999. This rule was previously filed as 13 CSR 50-155.010. Original rule filed April 12, 1979, effective Sept. 14, 1979. Amended: Filed June 4, 1990, effective March 9, 1992. Amended: Filed April 14, 1992, effective Dec. 3, 1992. Emergency amendment filed Oct. 15, 1992, effective Oct. 25, 1992, expired Feb. 21, 1993. Emergency amendment filed Feb. 11, 1993, effective Feb. 22, 1993, expired June 21, 1993. Amended: Filed Oct. 15, 1992, effective May 6, 1993. Emergency amendment filed Aug. 26, 1993, effective Sept. 4, 1993, expired Jan. 1, 1994. Amended: Filed Aug. 26, 1993, effective April 9, 1994. Amended: Filed Nov. 13,*

1998, effective May 30, 1999. Amended: Filed Feb. 15, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000.

**Original authority: 194.117, RSMo 1978, amended 1991, 1993, 1999.*