

## **Inmate Death**

### **Overview:**

The Division of Adult Institutions shall ensure specific action is taken in the event of an inmate death. This shall include completion of proper notification, documentation and review of the death.

A court order, subpoena or search warrant signed by a judge is required to authorize the DOC to disclose PHI to law enforcement.

Next of kin may obtain a copy of the autopsy from the medical examiner.

Next of kin may obtain copies of the death certificate from the Department of Health Services, State Vital Records Office, PO Box 309, Madison, WI 53701-0309.

### **Social Worker/Treatment Specialist Responsibilities/Designee:**

Based on facility procedure, may provide notification to emergency contact and next of kin. Emergency contact and next of kin information can be found in WICS.

If the next of kin or emergency contact requests PHI, refer the individual to the HIPAA Compliance Officer. It should be noted that a previously signed DOC-1163A-Authorization for Use and Disclosure of PHI, does not survive death. If the next of kin cannot be found, make efforts to notify relatives. If, after due diligence, no next of kin or emergency contact is located, efforts may cease.

### **Reference/Resources:**

DAI Policy 300.00.09 – Death of Inmate