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	Department of Corrections		Effective:	07/11/08	Reviewed:	
	Policies and Procedures		Distribution:	Public	Due for Rev:	07/09
Chapter:	Medical and Health Care Services					
Subject:	Notification of Serious Illness, Injury, or Death of Prisoner					

I. Authority

In accordance with 22 AAC 05.155, the Department will maintain a manual comprised of policies and procedures established by the Commissioner to interpret and implement relevant sections of the Alaska Statutes and 22 AAC.

II. References

Alaska Statutes

AS 33.30.011, AS 12.65.005

Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions; 4th Edition 2003

4-4425, 4395

Standards for Adult Local Detention Facilities; 3rd Edition 1991

3-ALDF-4E-44; 4E-45

III. Purpose

To establish uniform procedures within the Department for appropriate notifications in the event of a prisoner's serious illness, injury, or death.

IV. Application

All staff and prisoners.

V. Policy

A. The Department shall make timely notification within the Department and to the person designated by the prisoner for notification in the event of a prisoner's serious illness, injury, or death.

B. Notification Sequence

When a prisoner becomes seriously ill, is injured, or dies, the following personnel shall be notified:

1. Health care personnel, who shall notify Inmate Health in the Anchorage Central Office.
2. The Shift Supervisor, who shall notify the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent.
3. As appropriate, the Superintendent shall ensure notification of the Alaska State Troopers, State Medical Examiner, Chaplain, and the Director or Deputy Director of Institutions.
4. The Superintendent or designee (usually the Chaplain) shall notify the prisoner's next of kin or other individual identified in the prisoner's file, as set out in E. below.

C. Prisoners with Serious Illness or Injury

1. In the event of serious illness or injury, the Superintendent shall ensure that the individual designated by the prisoner to be contacted in the event of an emergency is notified. Requests for medical information shall be referred to the attending physician.
2. For a decision related to a serious illness or injury that must be made on behalf of an incapacitated prisoner, a health care practitioner, the Chaplain, or other appropriate person shall contact the next of kin or the person designated in a power of attorney executed by the prisoner.

D. Prisoner Death

1. Death in Hospital


The Department shall follow the steps below if a prisoner dies after being transferred to a hospital:

- a. The assigned hospital correctional officer or contract security guard shall notify the Shift Supervisor at the appropriate institution.
 - b. The Shift Supervisor shall notify the Superintendent and the on-site health care personnel. The on-site health care personnel shall notify Inmate health in Anchorage Central Office.
 - c. The Superintendent shall ensure that the State Medical Examiner, Chaplain, the Director of Institutions and, if appropriate, the Alaska State Troopers are notified.
2. **Death in a Facility**
In the event of a death in the facility the Superintendent shall also ensure that the notifications set out in B. above are completed. See Policy 1208.28, "Death of a Prisoner".
3. **Death on Furlough or in a Residential Program**
If a prisoner dies while on furlough or in a contract residential program, the administrator of the program shall notify the Superintendent of the facility that is overseeing the community residential center or the placing community correction supervisor who shall, in turn, notify the appropriate individuals identified under 1. c. above.
4. **Medical Review**
As soon as the last entry in the Health Record has been written, medical staff shall forward the entire Health Record to the Medical Records Administrator as quickly as possible. The Medical Director shall review the medical file of a prisoner who dies while in custody. The Medical Director shall provide a report on the death of a prisoner to the Director of Institutions.
- E. **Notification of Next of Kin**
In the event of a prisoner's death, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the prisoner's next of kin and the individual designated by the prisoner to be contacted in case of emergency.

VIII. Implementation

This policy and procedure is effective 14 days following the date signed by the Commissioner. Each Manager shall incorporate the contents of this document into local policy and procedure. All local policies and procedures must conform to the contents of this document; any deviation from the contents of this document must be approved in writing by the Division Director.

6/27/08
Date


Joseph D. Schmidt, Commissioner
Department of Corrections