

CORONER REFERRALS

I. The following list of causes of death or stillbirth requires the signature of the coroner as the certifier (pursuant to §39-260, Idaho Code), and the external causes section of the death certificate (items 32-37 and 38a-38b if transportation injury) to be completed:

- **Abrasion**
- **Aspiration** (except when stated to be due to a disease)
- **Accident**
- **Bruise**
- **Burns**
- **Choking**
- **Concussion**
- **Contusion**
- **Crushing**
- **Cut**
- **Exposure**
- **Found dead without seeing a Physician during last illness**
- **Fractures** (except those *specified* to be spontaneous, pathologic, or due to a disease condition such as Osteomalacia, Osteoporosis, etc.)

- **Hanging**
- **Hematoma** (see note below in II)
- **Homicide**
- **Hypothermia** (except when stated to be due to a disease condition)
- **Inhalation**
- **Injury**
- **Laceration**
- **Late effects of injury**
- **Overdose**
- **Puncture**
- **Strangulation**
- **Suffocation**
- **Suicide**
- **Toxicity** (medications, drugs, alcohol, etc.)
- **Trauma**
- **Wound**

- **Any external agent as the underlying cause of death or stillbirth, such as sting (e.g., bee)**
- **Any other external means as cause of death or stillbirth, such as bite, anaphylactic shock, etc.**

The items on this list are meant to be guidelines, not “hard and fast” rules. If any of the conditions mentioned above are stated to be due to a disease condition, contact **Kathy Luttrell**, nosologist, at **Vital Statistics 208-334-4991**

II. When there are questions concerning the validity of certain causes of death or stillbirth, call **Kathy Luttrell** at **Vital Statistics**.

Examples of questionable causes of death or stillbirth are:

- **Hematoma (usually indicates a trauma - if natural, the terminology used is usually hemorrhage)**
- **Pneumonia with mention of a fracture, unless fracture is more than 28 days old (if no date is given for fracture, it is considered to be recent and thus within 28 days)**
- **Surgery (some surgeries are done because of injuries; if this is the case, the injury becomes the *underlying* cause of death, and the coroner must sign the certificate)**
- **Hip pinning or hip nailing (often done because of an injury)**

Screen the cause of death and stillbirth section (mainly Part I); **check for any indication of other than natural cause of death or stillbirth**. If a death or stillbirth certificate must be returned to the coroner, it is not necessary, in most cases, to prepare a new certificate.