



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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| 2003 Wisconsin Act 273 [2003 Senate Bill 196] | Pronouncement of Death by Hospice Nurse |
| 2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/ | Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm |

Under current law, a hospital, nursing home, or hospice that is the place of death of an individual may prepare a death certificate for the individual and give it to the funeral director or other person who is authorized to move the corpse for final disposition. The death certificate must include the date of death, which under current law is the date that a person is pronounced dead by a physician, coroner, deputy coroner, medical examiner, or deputy medical examiner. The physician of the deceased individual or, in certain circumstances, the coroner or medical examiner, must, within five days after the pronouncement of death, present the death certificate to the funeral director or other person authorized to move the corpse, who must file the death certificate with the local registrar.

Under Act 273, a hospice nurse in a hospice that is directly involved with the care of a hospice patient may pronounce the date, time and place of the patient's death, if the patient was generally under the care of a physician at the time of death and the death was anticipated. Act 273 provides that this language may not be construed to authorize a hospice nurse to certify the cause of the patient's death.

Effective Date: May 1, 2004

Prepared by: Laura Rose, Deputy Director

May 17, 2004

LR:jal

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.