
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney

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2023 Wisconsin Act 174
[2023 Senate Bill 176]

**Best Practices for Coroners and
Medical Examiners**

State law specifies certain types of deaths that require an investigation by a coroner or a medical examiner, who then completes the medical certification. The medical certification is the portion of a death record that provides the cause of death, manner of death, injury-related data, and any other medically related data. Death records are registered with the Office of Vital Records, which is supervised by the state registrar in the Department of Health Services (DHS).

2023 Wisconsin Act 174 requires DHS to establish best practices for coroners and medical examiners for completing medical certifications and investigations of reportable deaths, in consultation with organizations of coroners, medical examiners, and forensic pathologists, as well as any other organization that DHS determines to be appropriate. The act also requires DHS to make available and encourage use of the established best practices by any office of a coroner or medical examiner, and to periodically review and update the best practices, if necessary.

Effective date: March 24, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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