
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



Prepared by: Amber Otis, Senior Staff Attorney

April 1, 2024

2023 Wisconsin Act 175 [2023 Senate Bill 178]

Requirement to Contact Coroners and Medical Examiners for Certain Deaths

Under state law, physicians, authorities of various medical institutions, and other persons having knowledge of a death must report certain types of deaths, including suicide, to the sheriff, police chief, medical examiner, or coroner of the county where the death took place.

2023 Wisconsin Act 175 generally creates a requirement to contact a medical examiner or coroner when a death occurs within 24 hours of arriving at a hospital, with the purpose of such contact being to determine whether the medical examiner or coroner has jurisdiction over that death's investigation.

Specifically, the act requires that, if a person required to report deaths has knowledge of a death that occurred within 24 hours after an individual either has presented at, or is admitted to, a hospital or similar institution, whichever is earlier, the person with knowledge of such a death must contact the medical examiner or coroner to determine whether the death is reportable under the current laws requiring a medical examiner or coroner to investigate certain types of death. However, the act's requirements do not apply to a hospice, as defined under state law.

Effective date: March 24, 2024

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

AO:ksm