



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES

POLICY ON UNNATURAL DEATH CASES FOR MEDICO-LEGAL INVESTIGATION OF DEATH

POLICY NUMBER: FPS 2

FILE NUMBER: FPS/2/1

POLICY NUMBER: FPS/2/P

REVISION DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026

ORIGINATED BY: LIMPOPO FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES

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AUTHORISED BY: DDG-LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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1. POLICY STATEMENT

All deaths due to unnatural causes, including procedure related deaths, are referred for a medico-legal postmortem examination.

2. PURPOSE

To ensure that all unnatural deaths from health-care facilities are properly referred for a medico-legal postmortem examination.

3. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

1. Chief Executive Officers of all Hospitals
2. Clinical Executive Directors
3. Senior Clinical Managers & Clinical Managers
4. Heads Of Clinical Departments & Units
5. Medical Specialist
6. Medical Registrars
7. Medical Officers
8. Nursing Managers & Professional nurses
9. Private Hospital Managers
10. Forensic Pathology Mortuary Managers
11. Forensic Pathology Officers
12. Hospital Mortuary Staff

4. LEGAL MANDATE

- Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1996
- National Health Act (Act No. 61 of 2003)
- Births and Deaths Registration Act (Act NO. 51 of 1992)
- The Inquest Act (Act No 58 of 1959)
- Section 48 of the Health Professions Amendment Act (Act No. 29 of 2007)
- Criminal Procedure Amendment Act (Act No. 8 of 2013)

N.H.

5. POLICY PRONOUNCEMENT

All deaths resulting from unnatural causes shall be referred for medico-legal examination according to the standard operating procedure. This refers to any death due to physical (not limited to road traffic fatalities, interpersonal violence, etc.) or chemical influence (not limited to drugs, toxins, etc.) including procedure-related deaths, direct/indirect or related complications.

6. DEFAULT

Failure to adhere to the contents of this policy constitutes misconduct.

7. INCEPTION DATE

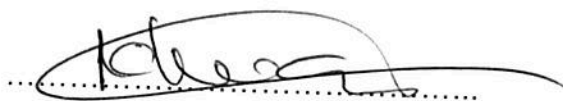
The inception date shall be the date of approval.

8. LAPSE/TERMINATION

The policy shall be in place until revised or replaced.

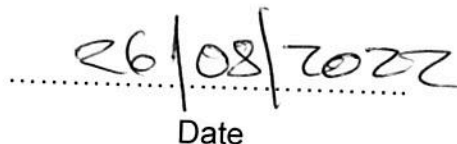
9. APPROVED BY:

Accounting officer/delegated accounting officer



Acting Deputy Director General

Dr N.N Ndwamato


Date

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