



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-21

Effective: 01/10/18 Review Due: 01/10/19 Replaces: 11/18/15

2-21 APPARENT NATURAL DEATH / SUICIDE

2-21-1 Procedures

A. Apparent Natural Death

1. For all apparent natural death calls except calls where a death occurs in a hospital or nursing home, the dispatched officer will:
 - a. Check the body for signs of life.
 - b. Investigate the incident and complete the incident report, and the Apparent Natural Death Worksheet (PD3066).
 - c. Attempt to contact the deceased's physician if it is known that the deceased was under a doctor's care.
 - d. OMI will be called to all unattended deaths.
 - e. Coordinate with OMI on next of kin notification and document in the report. The officer will only make death notification accompanied by a Chaplain or another officer.

B. Suicide

1. For all suicides, the dispatched officer will:
 - a. Request that the Office of the Medical Investigator respond to the scene.
 - b. Request a Crime Scene Specialist.
 - c. Conduct a preliminary investigation.
 - d. Take statements, if witnesses are present.
 - e. Be responsible for the crime scene and the investigation.
 - f. Coordinate with OMI on next of kin notification and document in the report. The officer will only make death notification accompanied by a Chaplain or another officer.
 - g. After determining that the death is a suicide, the investigating CSS will make arrangements with the Evidence Unit for the release of any evidence to the family.
2. The dispatched supervisor will ensure that the investigation is comprehensive and complete.