



## LEGISLATIVE GUIDANCE

# Medical Certificate of Death and Stillbirths

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Related topic(s): [Coroners Act; Vital Statistics Act](#)

Legislative guidance provides physicians and surgeons with assistance in navigating legislation applicable to medical practice. These documents are meant to be used as a helpful resource and should be read in conjunction with the legislation they refer to.



Stillbirth form. Only a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or a coroner may complete a Medical Certificate of Stillbirth. (The Medical Certificate of Stillbirth is on the reverse side of the Registration of Stillbirth form.)

A registrant does not need to be in attendance of the delivery of the stillborn baby to complete the Medical Certificate of Stillbirth. If a physician has provided a consultation to the registered midwife regarding the stillbirth, he/she has a professional and legal obligation to complete the Medical Certificate of Stillbirth. The completion of the Medical Certificate of Stillbirth can be delegated to an associate or a locum, providing the delegate is able to certify the medical cause of stillbirth

- (f) if the chief coroner reasonably believes it is in the public interest that a class of deaths be reported and issues a notice in accordance with the regulations, in the circumstances set out in the notice, or
  - (g) in any prescribed circumstances.
- (2) If a child died in circumstances other than those described in subsection (1), a person who, by regulation, must report child deaths, must immediately report to the chief coroner, in the form required by the chief coroner,
- (a) the facts and circumstances relating to the child's death, and
  - (b) any other information required by the chief coroner.

### *Stillbirths*

- 11 (1) A stillbirth in British Columbia must be registered as provided in this Act.
- (2) Within 48 hours after a stillbirth in British Columbia, a statement, in the form required by the registrar general respecting the stillbirth must be completed and delivered to a funeral director or a vital statistics4(3)]TJom7TJETØMC /Span #MCID 10/ang (en-CA)✕

*Medical Certificate of Death*

18 (1) A medical certificate must be prepared in accordance with subsection (2) in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) if a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner
  - (i) attended the deceased during the deceased's last illness,
  - (ii) is able to certify the medical cause of death with reasonable accuracy,
  - and
  - (iii)

