

SENATE BILL NO. 1387

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHROER.

5645S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 194, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to autopsies, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 194, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 194.118, to read as
3 follows:

194.118. 1. As used in this section, the following
2 terms mean:

3 (1) "Sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS)", the
4 sudden and unexpected death due to cardiac arrhythmia, as
5 determined by performance of an autopsy or a clinical
6 investigation, of a young, apparently healthy individual
7 with no previously diagnosed structural heart disease;

8 (2) "Sudden death in the young (SDY)", the sudden and
9 unexpected death of an individual younger than twenty years
10 of age due to natural causes, including, but not limited to,
11 sudden cardiac death or sudden unexpected death in epilepsy,
12 which death remains unexplained after initial investigation;

13 (3) "Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)", the sudden
14 death of an infant younger than one year of age which
15 remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation,
16 including performance of an autopsy, scene investigations,
17 and a review of clinical history;

18 (4) "Sudden unexpected infant death (SUID)", the
19 sudden and unexpected death of an infant younger than one
20 year of age, whether explained or unexplained, including,
21 but not limited to, death caused by SIDS, accidental
22 suffocation, and other potential causes;

23 (5) "SUID and SDY Case Registry", the national
24 surveillance system coordinated by the Centers for Disease
25 Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health
26 that collects standardized data on sudden and unexpected
27 deaths in individuals younger than twenty years of age.

28 2. In the case of an infant or child who dies suddenly
29 and unexpectedly, including cases of SIDS, SUID, or SDY, the
30 autopsy shall include microscopic and toxicology studies and
31 a review of the child's immunization and medical records
32 through the ShowMeVax system, or its successor registry,
33 from the child's primary health care provider, or from other
34 sources. The county coroner or medical examiner shall
35 document in the autopsy report any immunizations or
36 emergency countermeasures administered to the child within
37 ninety days before the child's death and report the case to
38 the SUID and SDY Case Registry in accordance with protocols
39 established by the Centers for Disease Control and
40 Prevention and the department of health and senior services.

41 3. In the case of a sudden death suspected to be
42 caused by SADS in an individual of any age, the autopsy
43 shall include microscopic and toxicology studies and a
44 review of the individual's immunization and medical records,
45 as available through state health databases or other
46 sources. The county coroner or medical examiner shall
47 document in the autopsy report any immunizations or
48 emergency countermeasures administered to the individual
49 within ninety days before the individual's death and report

50 the case to the SUID and SDY Case Registry if the individual
51 was younger than twenty years old at the time of death, in
52 accordance with protocols established by the Centers for
53 Disease Control and Prevention and the department.

54 4. The department shall impose the following
55 administrative penalties against a county coroner or medical
56 examiner who fails to report a case of SIDS, SUID, SDY, or
57 SADS for individuals younger than twenty years of age to the
58 SUID and SDY Case Registry within thirty days after
59 completing the autopsy report:

60 (1) For the first unreported case, a fine of up to one
61 thousand dollars; and

62 (2) For the second and each subsequent unreported
63 case, a fine of up to five thousand dollars. The department
64 shall report those coroners and medical examiners with a
65 license to practice in this state to their respective
66 professional licensing boards for disciplinary action, which
67 may include suspension or revocation of license.

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