

## **APRNs and Authority to Pronounce Death and Provide Cause of Death**

Minnesota statutes limit who can report the cause of death, but do not limit who can report a death.

Pronouncement or reporting of death

Minnesota statute 145.135 defines death by the Uniform Determination of Death Act (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=145.135>). It provides that determination of death is to “be made in accordance with generally accepted medical standards”. APRNs should follow their facility or employer policies or protocols regarding who may pronounce death in that specific setting.

### **Signing of Death Certificates**

Minnesota Rule part 4601.1800 provides for “Cause of death information for each death that occurs in Minnesota may be provided only by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, coroner, or medical examiner. The physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant who provides the cause of death must be the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant who was present at the time of death; the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or an associate of the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant who provided medical treatment for the deceased before death; or a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant who has direct knowledge of the circumstances and cause of death and has access to the medical record of the deceased. Cause of death information must be provided to a registrar according to parts 4601.0100 to 4601.2600.”

See the Minnesota Department of Health website for the [Medical Certifier / Designated Staff User Agreement](#) and [Death Registration Information for Medical Certifiers and Designated Staff Assistants](#). Contact the OVR Help Desk for more information at 651-201-5993 or [health.MRCAdmin@state.mn.us](mailto:health.MRCAdmin@state.mn.us).