

ServiceOntario

Office of the Registrar  
General

P.O. Box 4600  
189 Red River Road  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8

Toll free: 800 461-2156  
Telephone: 416 325-8305  
TTY: 416 325-3408

ServiceOntario

Bureau du registraire général de  
l'état civil

C.P. 4600  
189, Red River Road  
Thunder Bay ON P7B 6L8

Sans Frais: 800 461-2156  
Téléphone: 416 325-8305  
ATS : 416 325-3408



# Memorandum

To: Ontario Division Registrars

From: Alexandra Schmidt  
Deputy Registrar General

Date: August 23, 2021

Re: Coroner investigators' permanent authority to sign and copy MCODs

I am writing to inform you that effective August 18, 2021, changes to Regulation 1094 of the *Vital Statistics Act* will permanently authorize active registered nurses and nurse practitioners appointed as coroner investigators under section 16.1 of the Coroner's Act, to complete, sign and copy Medical Certificates of Death (MCODs), including electronic Medical Certificates of Death (eMCODs).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an emergency order was made in May 2020 to temporarily grant registered nurses and nurse practitioners appointed as coroner investigators as of May 1, 2020, with the authority to complete, sign, and copy MCODs. Permanently expanding this authority will maintain operational efficiencies gained under the temporary authority and reduce strain and burden on coroners, physicians, and authorized nurse practitioners.

As such, the fillable PDF and paper versions of the MCOD have been updated to include additional information in the instructions, and field 27 of the form now includes a separate box for Coroner Investigators. No changes have been made to the eMCOD as this form will continue to be used until the electronic death registration initiative is implemented. Coroner investigators may continue completing this form.

The regulatory changes also clarify that:

- coroner investigators are permitted to sign MCODs and eMCODs for deaths that they investigate;
- only coroners can sign MCODs and eMCODs for deaths that were investigated by a coroner; and
- copying MCODs and eMCODs will also be allowed when death registrations are completed as a result of family-led death care instead of the families using a funeral home.

Thank you again for your continued support. If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the dedicated division registrar helpline at (807) 343-7431.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Schmidt  
Deputy Registrar General / (A) Assistant Deputy Minister, Central Services Division  
ServiceOntario

- c.     Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
       David Arbuckle, Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario  
       Kelly McCarthy, City of Toronto  
       Allan Thompson, Rural Ontario Municipal Association  
       Marc Gagnon, L'Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario  
       Carey Smith, Bereavement Authority of Ontario