

**STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GENERAL ORDER**

**INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS**  
**SUBJECT**

**DATE:** October 5, 2020

**NO:** R-2

**FROM:** CHIEF ERIC JONES

**TO:** ALL PERSONNEL

**INDEX:** **Death Investigations**

**I. POLICY**

Reports of death occurring within the city limits of Stockton shall be investigated by the Stockton Police Department and documented on a Significant Incident Report (S.I.R.). Section 647.9 of the Penal Code provides that employees are prohibited from using any means, including electronic messaging devices, for capturing images of a deceased person at the scene of an accident or crime for any purpose other than an official law enforcement purpose.

**II. PROCEDURE**

- A. Significant Incident Reports shall be filed in all cases of deaths reported to the Stockton Police Department which have occurred within the city limits unless:
1. The victim has been under care of a physician, and the physician signs a death certificate.
  2. The death is a result of a homicide (e.g. 187 P.C., Vehicular Manslaughter, Traffic Fatality, etc.). These do not require a separate death report.
  3. All deaths involving juveniles shall be routed to Family Crimes.
- B. Death Reports shall note either the Coroner's case number or the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department's call history number in the synopsis section.
- C. Records Responsibility:
1. Deaths reported via S.I.R. will be routed to the Sheriff-Coroner.
  2. When deaths occur as a result of a homicide, a copy of the crime report or accident report will be routed to the Sheriff-Coroner.
    - a. NOTE: In cases of multiple deaths, it must be assured that all victims' names are included in copies sent to the Coroner.
- D. Telecommunications Center Responsibility:
1. Telecommunications Center Personnel will dispatch officers to a report of a death occurring within the city limits as soon as possible. Dispatching to a death report call shall not be held through roll call. This is necessary due to the family's emotional state resulting from the death of a family member and/or loved one.