STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

INVESTIGATION OF DEATHS

SUBJECT

DATE:  October 5, 2020

FROM:  CHIEF ERIC JONES

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.