Policy:

When an ambulance requests the Coroner and the call falls within the established boundaries of a “Coroner’s Case” the 9-1-1 Dispatcher will make contact with the Coroner after consulting the Coroner’s Status in the CAD and checking the Coroner Duty Schedule. If the request does not fall within the boundaries of a “Coroner’s Case”, the dispatcher will check to see if an attempt was made to contact the patient’s family physician. In the instances outlined below, a notification will be made to the Coroner’s Office advising them of the situation, and whether they have been requested to the scene. If the police have requested that the coroner not yet respond, relay that information as well, including instances where the police have requested they not respond. This notification is required by PA State Law.

Coroner’s Cases are defined as:

1. Any sudden, unusual or suspicious death.
2. Any fatal accident, including work, play, auto or industrial.
3. All Suicides
4. All Homicides
5. Stillbirths or any infant dying less than 24 hours after birth
6. Family physician is unable to be contacted.

- If the call is from Hospice, no ambulance needs to be dispatched. Notify the coroner if the family physician is not available.

- No one has the authority to request removal of the body until the coroner arrives on the scene.

Procedure:

1. If the call is at a specific location, document the municipality and address.
2. Document the caller’s information.
3. Document the specifics of the call, including the reason for the coroner.
4. Check the coroner schedule and page the on-duty coroner.
5. If there is no reply after 5 minutes, page again.
6. If there is no reply after a total of 10 minutes, call the phone numbers listed for the on-duty coroner.
7. If there is no reply from the on-duty coroner, notify the County Coroner.