

CHAPTER 2025-50

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 647

An act relating to advanced practice registered nurse services; amending s. 382.008, F.S.; revising who may file a certificate of death or fetal death; revising the definition of “primary or attending practitioner”; revising who may note corrected information on a permanent certificate of death or fetal death; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and subsections (3) and (5) of section 382.008, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

382.008 Death, fetal death, and nonviable birth registration.—

(2)(a) The funeral director who first assumes custody of a dead body or fetus shall electronically file the certificate of death or fetal death. In the absence of the funeral director, the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, or other person in attendance at or after the death or the district medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found shall electronically file the certificate of death or fetal death. The person who files the certificate shall obtain personal data from a legally authorized person as described in s. 497.005 or the best qualified person or source available. The medical certification of cause of death must be furnished to the funeral director, either in person or via certified mail or electronic transfer, by the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, or medical examiner responsible for furnishing such information. For fetal deaths, the physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, midwife, or hospital administrator shall provide any medical or health information to the funeral director within 72 hours after expulsion or extraction.

(3) Within 72 hours after receipt of a death or fetal death certificate from the funeral director, the medical certification of cause of death shall be completed and made available to the funeral director by the decedent's primary or attending practitioner or, if s. 382.011 applies, the district medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found. The primary or attending practitioner or the medical examiner shall certify over his or her signature the cause of death to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. As used in this section, the term “primary or attending practitioner” means a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice

registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, or an advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, who treated the decedent through examination, medical advice, or medication during the 12 months preceding the date of death.

(a) The department may grant the funeral director an extension of time upon a good and sufficient showing of any of the following conditions:

1. An autopsy is pending.
2. Toxicology, laboratory, or other diagnostic reports have not been completed.
3. The identity of the decedent is unknown and further investigation or identification is required.

(b) If the decedent's primary or attending practitioner or the district medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found indicates that he or she will sign and complete the medical certification of cause of death but will not be available until after the 5-day registration deadline, the local registrar may grant an extension of 5 days. If a further extension is required, the funeral director must provide written justification to the registrar.

(5) A permanent certificate of death or fetal death, containing the cause of death and any other information that was previously unavailable, shall be registered as a replacement for the temporary certificate. The permanent certificate may also include corrected information if the items being corrected are noted on the back of the certificate and dated and signed by the funeral director, physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123, an advanced practice registered nurse providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician, or district medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred or the body was found, as appropriate.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 20, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 20, 2025.