
Public Administration Case Referral

1135.1 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR CASE REFERRAL

This policy establishes rules and guidelines for Coroner case referral to the Orange County Public Administrator.

1135.2 CASES REQUIRING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR REFERRAL

The following categories of deaths shall be referred to the Public Administrator by the assigned Deputy Coroner, following a diligent search for existing next-of-kin:

- (a) When the decedent's next-of-kin is unknown.
- (b) When there is no surviving next-of-kin.
- (c) When the next-of-kin is unable to be located.
- (d) When the decedent's next-of-kin has been located, but is unable to arrange for disposition of property due to inability to travel, incapacitation by illness, or some other factor(s) prohibiting his/her ability to act.
- (e) When the decedent's real property is unable to be secured and is in jeopardy of loss or damage.

For all other deaths, disposition of the remains and any property in possession of the Coroner may be decided by the assigned Deputy Coroner, pursuant to Health and Safety Code 7100.

1135.3 CASE REFERRAL

Referrals to the Public Administrator shall include a completed Public Administrator Summary Report and one copy of the Coroner Investigator (CI) report.

For homicide deaths, in-custody deaths, and officer-involved deaths, the referral shall contain only the Public Administrator Summary Report.

1135.4 RELEASE OF PROPERTY TO THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

For any case under the jurisdiction of the Public Administrator, property in possession of the Coroner may be released to the Public Administrator without written authorization from the next-of-kin. Property shall be released in accordance with the Coroner Division Policy 1102.11.1.

1135.5 DOCUMENTATION

Case referral to the Public Administrator shall be documented by completing the applicable CME fields on the page titled "Kin/Informants." Any communication from the Public Administrator, including updates or final decisions relevant to the disposition of the decedent's remains and/or property, shall be documented in CME on the page titled "Supplemental Case Note."