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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE
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Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 4731-14-01 Pronouncement of death.

Effective: October 31, 2026

(A) Only an individual holding one of the following current certificates or licenses may pronounce a person dead:

(1) A certificate to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery issued under section 4731.14 of the Revised Code;

(2) A training certificate issued under section 4731.291 of the Revised Code;

(3) A clinical research faculty certificate issued under section 4731.293 of the Revised Code;

(4) A special activities certificate issued under section 4731.294 of the Revised Code;

(5) A license to practice as a certified nurse-midwife, certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist issued under section 4723.41 or 4723.42 of the Revised Code, when the holder acts in compliance with section 4723.36 of the Revised Code;

(6) A license to practice as a registered nurse issued under section 4723.09 of the Revised Code, when the holder acts in compliance with section 4723.36 of the Revised Code.

(7) A license to practice as a physician assistant issued under section 4730.12 of the Revised Code, when the holder acts in compliance with section 4730.202 of the Revised Code;

(8) A certificate of conceded eminence issued under section 4731.297 of the Revised Code;

(9) A certificate to practice podiatric medicine and surgery issued under section 4731.56 of the Revised Code.

(B) A physician holding a current certificate to practice medicine or surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery issued under section 4731.14 of the Revised Code may pronounce a person dead without personally examining the body of the deceased only if a competent observer has recited the facts of the deceased's present medical condition to the physician and the physician is satisfied that death has occurred.

(C) For purposes of this rule a competent observer shall mean one of the following:

(1) A licensed practical nurse holding a current license issued under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code;

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(2) An EMT-Basic holding a current certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code;

(3) An EMT-intermediate holding a current certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code;

(4) A EMT - paramedic holding a current certificate issued under section 4765.30 of the Revised Code;

(5) A chiropractor holding a current certificate issued under Chapter 4734. of the Revised Code;

(6) An individual authorized to pronounce a person dead under paragraph (A) of this rule;

(7) A coroner's investigator as referenced in section 313.05 of the Revised Code.