



West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center
Office of the Medical Examiner
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December 3rd, 2019

Subject: Medical Examiner Death Certificate Initiation in VRISM

Dear Funeral Director:

At the start of 2020, the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center will begin initiating and certifying all death certificates for medical examiner cases in VRISM. Funeral homes will no longer initiate death certificates for medical examiner cases at the West Tennessee Regional Forensic Center. This change in procedure will begin with all medical examiner cases with dates of death on or after January 1, 2020. Cases with dates of death on or before December 31, 2019 will still require funeral home initiation, even if the examination takes place one or after January 1st, 2020.

Our goal is to have all medical examiner death certificates certified within VRISM within 48 hours of examination. Once we are aware of a family's choice of funeral home, we will assign the death certificate to the selected funeral home in VRISM for completion. We ask that funeral homes do not call the medical examiner's office to check on the status of a death certificate within the first 48 hours after examination.

Please note, the medical examiner's office verifies all data entered on tabs 1, 7, and 9. Funeral homes wishing to make changes to any information on these tabs should coordinate with one of our investigators first as this will require recertification on the part of the medical examiner.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Benjamin J. Figura'.

Benjamin J. Figura, PhD, D-ABFA
Forensic Anthropologist and Director