Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Pro Forma

Sudden Death – Forensic Notes

Note: This form has been designed by Dr Stephen Jennings on behalf of the Academic Committee to assist Health Care Professionals (Forensic Physicians, Nurses and Paramedics) at the scene of sudden deaths. It is to be regarded as an aide-memoire and it is therefore not necessary for all parts of the pro forma to be completed. On completion this form is the personal property of the examining HCP.

Police

Death reported by:

Date of examination:

Time called:

Time of arrival:

Time death confirmed:

Officer in case:

Coroner's office involved:

Warnings *from scene coordinator:*

Deceased

Age:

DOB:

Unique Ref:

Address:

GP:

Surgery:

History

Briefed by: Police / Ambulance / Carer / Relative

Terms of reference: Pronounce life extinct / Note injuries / Determine if any suspicious circumstances / Full examination

Last seen alive:

History:

Documents found:

Post:

Bills:

Notes:

Dates:

Alcohol at scene:

Medication found:

Has the body been moved? YES / NO Why? By whom?

Examination of scene *(append sketch or photograph on separate sheet)*

Scene safety:

Precautions taken:

Plating: YES / NO

Electricity off: YES / NO

Lighting quality:

Details:

Emergency services equipment:

Medication:

Drug paraphernalia:

Alcohol:

Bloodstains:

Other:

Signed: Date: Time:

Examination of body

(Only examine after being briefed by the officer in charge. Do not move the body or disturb the locus without prior permission from SIO)

Condition of body (e.g. comment on rigor mortis, hypostasis, marbling, decomposition, petheciae, body fluids, states of dress, injuries seen, weapons present.)

Ambient temperature next to deceased: *(if relevant, ask SOCO to record)*

Verification of death:	By: HCP / Ambulance service
Absence of carotid pulse over one minute	YES / NO
Absence of heart sounds over one minute	YES / NO
Absence of respiratory movements and breath sounds over one minute	YES / NO
Fixed, dilated pupils	YES / NO
Presence of hypostasis	YES / NO
Presence of rigor mortis	YES / NO

Impression

Can death be verified? YES / NO **Time:**

Are there any suspicious circumstances? YES / NO

Coroner's officer informed: YES / NO / by whom?

Discussed with: GP / FP / SOCO / OIC / SIO

Further action needed? YES / NO / by whom?

Details: *(If further action needed, ask police to cordon off the area and ensure no one enters pending further discussion with FP and coroner's officer.)*

Secure cordon? YES / NO

Preliminary samples taken? YES / NO **Details:**
(by specially trained staff only)

Time left scene:

Signed: Date: Notes completed at time:

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