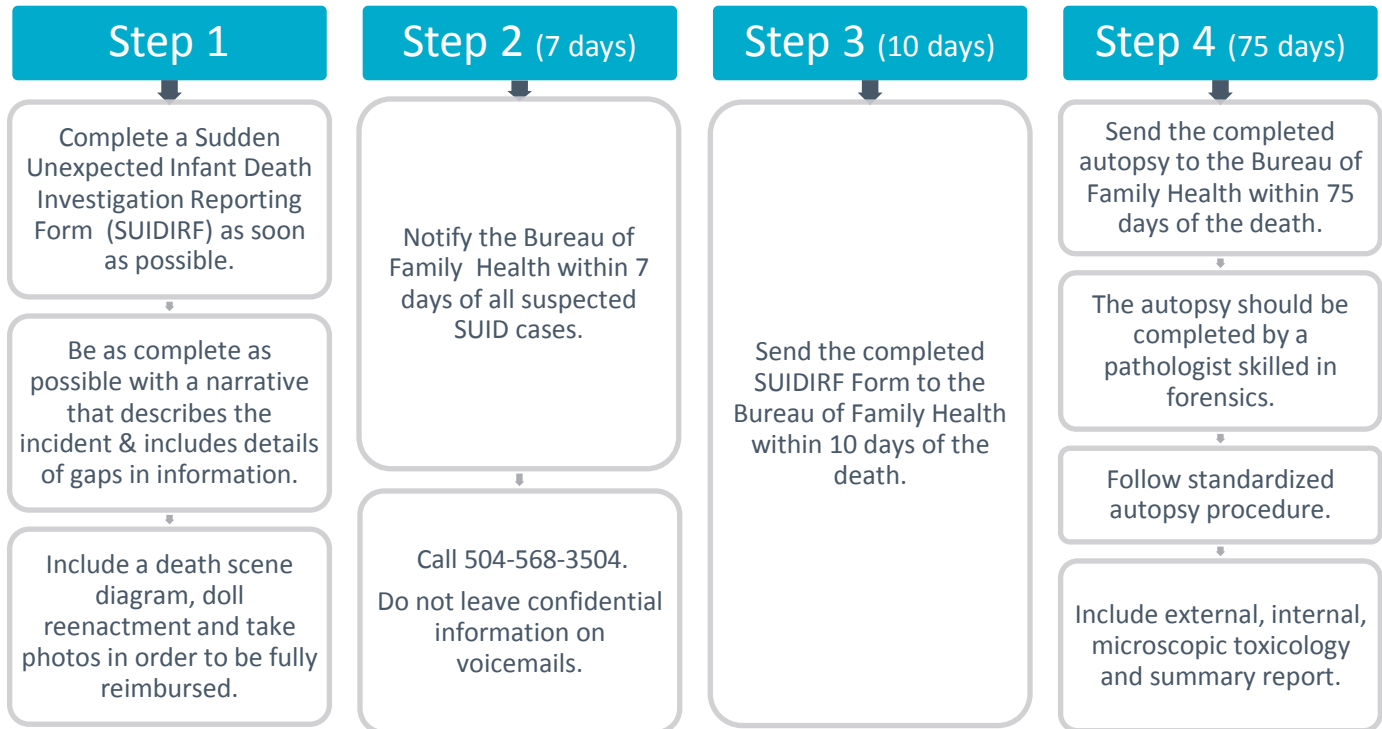


Coroners' Guide for Reporting SUID

(Sudden Unexpected Infant Death)

If handling a possible SUID case, please follow these steps:



Resources

Website & Forms

All forms and additional resources can be found: www.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1505

To easily get to above website, google:< DHH Louisiana Coroners >

Reimbursements

Separate BFH reimbursement forms should be completed for the SUIDIRF & for the Autopsy. New payment recipients must also submit a W-9

Submitting Forms

Bureau of Family Health (BFH)	
Submit SUIDIRF & Autopsies in any of these ways :	
Fax:	504-568-3503, Attn: Mortality Surveillance Epidemiologist
Mail	Attn: Mortality Surveillance Epidemiologist Bureau of Family Health 1450 Poydras St., Suite 2032 New Orleans, LA 70112
Secure file transfer protocol site	Contact the Mortality Surveillance Epidemiologist for more information at 504-568-3504
In case of suspected SUID, contact the Mortality Surveillance Epidemiologist at 504-568-3504. Please do NOT leave confidential information on voicemail.	

Documenting Infant Deaths: What you need to know

SUID is not a cause of death

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)

SUID includes SIDS and is a category of deaths. It includes deaths among infants less than 1 year of age that occur suddenly and unexpectedly, where the cause of death is not immediately obvious **prior** to investigation. SUID should never be written on a death certificate.

Tips:

By correctly documenting the cause of death , we can learn more about the differences in risk factors among infants who died from SIDS and other causes. We can more efficiently allocate resources and create targeted interventions to prevent future deaths.

Note: Unless there is a **confirmed SIDS case**, DO NOT use any combination of the following words on a death certificate. Vital records will inappropriately classify the death as SIDS if any of the following combination of words are used.

- Infant
- Unexpected
- Unexplained
- Sudden
- Death
- Syndrome

Correctly document the cause of death on the death certificate	
Record :	When:
Unknown or Undetermined	The death cannot be explained and one of the following is unavailable: autopsy, death scene investigation or review of clinical history.
Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation in Bed (ASSB)	The death occurred in a sleep environment and may be due to overlay or roll over. The death may also be due to an object in the sleep environment including but not limited to bed linens, sheets, blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, or soft bedding.
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	The death of an infant less than 1 year of age cannot be explained even after autopsy, death scene investigation and review of clinical history. All criteria must be met in order to classify the death as SIDS.