

**Section 10: Medical / Mental Health**  
**Subject: Inmate Death**  
**Minimum Standard: 5120:1-8-09 (AA)**  
**Revised:**

**Authorized:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Effective date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sheriff Paul A. Sigsworth**

**POLICY**

In all inmate deaths, the health authority determines the appropriateness of clinical care; ascertains whether corrective action in the system's policies, procedures, or practices is warranted; and, identifies trends that require further study.

**PROCEDURE**

1. In the event of an in custody death at the Erie County Jail, Corrections Officers will act in accordance with the Jail Emergencies Response Plan – Deaths policy.
2. The medical examiner or coroner should be notified of the inmate's death immediately.
  - a. The Jail Administrator, or designee, will notified the Chief Deputy of the death, who will then notify the Erie County Coroner's Office.
  - b. A postmortem examination should be performed, according to the laws of the jurisdiction, if the cause of death is unknown, the death occurred under suspicious circumstances, or the inmate was not under current medical care.
3. The Erie County Health Department will be responsible for determining the appropriateness of clinical care, whether corrective action in the system's policies, procedures, or practices is warranted and to identify trends that require further study.