



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality
Bland Bryant Building • Spring Grove Center
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

To: All DDA Licensed Providers

From: David Fowler, M.D., Acting Chief Medical Examiner, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Diane K. Coughlin, Director, The Developmental Disabilities Administration
Carol Benner, Director, The Office of Health Care Quality

RE: **Notification of Deaths to the Office of the Medical Examiner**

DATE: June 28, 2001

State law and regulation require that all deaths in State funded or State Operated programs be reported to the Office of the Medical Examiner. It is imperative that notification to the Medical Examiner be **made immediately after death** to provide the Examiner's office with time to determine the need for autopsy.

As outlined in the DDA Policy on Reportable Incidents, all deaths need to be reported to the police. In addition, per COMAR 10.35.01.18, state law and regulation require that all deaths in State funded or State operated programs be reported to the Office of the Medical Examiner. It has come to our attention that deaths are not being reported to the Examiner's office. We are requesting that providers contact the Examiner's Office directly. When making contact, please alert the Examiner's Office to the fact that you are a provider of services to individuals with developmental disabilities and licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration. Should the death occur at the hospital or nursing home, please alert those providers of the obligation to report the death to the Examiner's Office before release of the body. **Please do not release the body until authorized by the Medical Examiner's Office.**

The Medical Examiner's Office can be reached 24 hours per day at the following phone number:
410-333-3225

If you have questions with regard to this requirement please feel to contact William Dorrill/OHCQ at 410-402-8048 or Joan Rumenap/DDA at 410-767-5634.

cc: Joan Rumenap
Regional Directors

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258
Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us