



STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BOISE 83720

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

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January 28, 1987

Erwin L. Sonnenberg  
Coroner for Ada County  
7200 Barrister  
Boise, ID 83704

REF. NO. 7440

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS A LEGAL GUIDELINE OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL SUBMITTED FOR YOUR GUIDANCE

Re: Jurisdiction of Coroners

Dear Mr. Sonnenberg:

On January 12, 1987, a conference was held in our office attended by you, Walt Potter, Gem County Coroner, Marc Haws, Chief, Criminal Law Division, and me. During the conference and in your letter of the same date, you point out jurisdictional problems for coroners which may result without further clarification of our letter of December 17, 1986, a copy of which is attached. This letter is provided to clarify any misunderstanding which may have arisen as a result of our earlier letter.

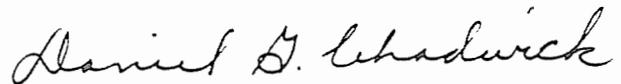
The misunderstanding can be resolved by the answer to the question, "What responsibility for the death certificate does the coroner have in the county where death occurs?" Consistent with the requirement that a death be registered in the county or district in which death actually occurs, Idaho Code § 39-260(a), the coroner of that county or district should certify on the death certificate as to the cause of death when required by § 39-260(b). Then, this coroner is obligated to cooperate with the coroner in the county where the incident occurred to determine the manner and responsibility for the cause of death as set forth in the letter of December 17th. As pointed out in our earlier letter, Idaho Code § 19-4301, requires that the coroner of the county where the incident causing death occurred is responsible and has jurisdiction in conjunction with law enforcement officials to jointly determine the manner and responsibility for the cause of death.

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These requirements also apply to those situations where a person is brought to Idaho from outside the state and dies or when a person is taken from Idaho to another state. The coroner in the county, district or state where death occurs should certify on the death certificate as to the cause of death when appropriate.

If additional clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



DANIEL G. CHADWICK  
Deputy Attorney General  
Intergovernmental Affairs

DGC/mkf

cc: Dale Haile, Canyon County Coroner  
Bee Biggs, Bureau of Vital Statistics