



## **Office of the State's Attorney**

Madison County, Illinois

**Thomas A. Haine**

State's Attorney

# **Protocol for Homicide and Questionable Death**

Effective August 3, 2023 until rescinded or amended.



Office of the State's Attorney  
Madison County, Illinois  
Thomas A. Haine  
State's Attorney

TO: MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF, JEFF CONNOR  
ALL CHIEFS OF POLICE AND DETECTIVES  
ALL FIRE CHIEFS AND ASSISTANT CHIEFS  
AMBULANCE SERVICE COMPANIES AND TECHNICIANS  
ILLINOIS STATE POLICE AND CRIME LAB  
OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHALL  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (CONSERVATION)

FROM: THOMAS A. HAINE, MADISON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY  
DATE: August 3, 2023  
RE: HOMICIDE AND QUESTIONABLE DEATH PROTOCOL

We hereby issue and promulgate the Madison County Homicide and Questionable Death Protocol, according to law, 55 ILCS 5/5-1085.5. As your agency and department have so indicated by their supervisors' signatures, the Madison County Homicide and Questionable Death Protocol is hereby established as standard operating procedure in Madison County.

The terms of this policy are mandatory, according to law, and will remain in force until changed by law. The various agencies which are involved in homicide and questionable death investigations have a continuing duty to apprise each and every officer, agent and employee of said agency, as to the terms and conditions of this protocol, now and at all times in the future. Each new officer, agent and employee must be made aware of their mandatory duty to comply with the terms of the Madison County Homicide and Questionable Death Protocol.

We also thank you for your input and the vital role played by the Madison County Coroner and all the police and fire departments in the drafting of this protocol as well as its implementation.

Thank you again for your continuing cooperation.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas A. Haine".

THOMAS A. HAINE  
MADISON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

CC: Honorable Steve Nonn, Madison County Coroner  
Honorable Thomas McRae, Madison County Circuit Clerk  
Honorable J. B. Pritzker, Governor of Illinois  
Honorable Kwame Raoul, Attorney General of Illinois  
Honorable Brenden Kelly, Director, Illinois State Police  
Honorable Patrick Delfino, Director, Office of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF MADISON )

**MADISON COUNTY HOMICIDE AND QUESTIONABLE  
DEATH PROTOCOL**

**POLICY**

**I.     PURPOSE**

This protocol shall:

- A. Establish areas of responsibility for various agencies which are usually involved in a homicide and questionable death investigation; and,
- B. Establish procedures for each agency to follow in pursuing its part of the investigation so that a common, or standard, procedure will be used throughout Madison County; and,
- C. Establish a spirit of understanding as to the duties of all agencies that may come to the scene of a homicide in order to facilitate the continuing cooperation between the public and private agencies which may be involved in a homicide or questionable death investigation.

**II.    DEFINITIONS**

**A.    LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Herein, all municipal police agencies within Madison County, the Madison County Sheriff’s Office; the Illinois State Police; the Illinois State Conservation Police; and all officers of the Department of Natural Resources; the Secretary of State Police; and the Office of the State Fire Marshal; the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis; and the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force shall be referred to collectively as “Law Enforcement Agencies.” The municipal police, County Sheriff or a delegated police agency, such as the State Police, shall be referred to as a “local law enforcement or investigative law enforcement agency.”

## B. HOMICIDE

The act of a human being intentionally or knowingly taking the life, or because of reckless conduct, causing the death of another human being.

## C. JURISDICTION

- (1) This protocol is controlling and applicable in all of the territory lying within the boundaries of Madison County, State of Illinois, including the area of the Mississippi River within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois in Madison County. (The State of Illinois has concurrent jurisdiction with Missouri from shore to shore over the Mississippi River.)
- (2) The investigative jurisdiction would include authority to inquire about deaths occurring as a result of acts committed within the County, or planned within the County, or in transit through the County, although the body of a victim is found in another territorial jurisdiction. (Said authority being subject to the jurisdiction of other competent law enforcement agencies in the territory wherein the body is found.)

## III. SCOPE

- A. The procedures set forth herein are intended to cover all investigations of deaths which occur or which are presumed to have occurred in Madison County or in which planning or acts in furtherance of the death occur within the County.

The authority for an initial death investigation is set forth in Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 55, Section 5/3-3013, which reads in part, to-wit: "Preliminary Investigation: Every Coroner, whenever, as soon as he knows or is informed that the dead body of any person is found, or lying within his county, or death is suspected of being:

- (1) A sudden or violent death, whether apparently suicidal, homicidal, or accidental, including but not limited to deaths apparently caused or contributed to by thermal, traumatic, chemical, electrical or radiational injury, or a complication of any of them, or by drowning or suffocation; (or)
- (2) A maternal or fetal death due to an illegal abortion, or any death due to a sex crime or a crime against nature; (or)

- (3) A death where circumstances are suspicious, obscure, mysterious, or otherwise unexplained, or where, in the written opinion of the attending physician, the cause of death is not determined; (or)
- (4) (A death caused by) alcohol or any drug which may have been a contributory cause; (or)
- (5) A death where a decedent was not attended by a licensed physician; (and)

(Thereupon) the Coroner shall go to the place where the dead body is and take charge of same and shall make a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of the death. In the case of death without attendance by a licensed physician, the body may be moved, with the Coroner's consent, from the place of death to a morgue or mortuary in the same county. Coroners in their discretion shall notify the pathologist or Coroner's physician as designated in accordance with Section 3-3014, to attempt to ascertain the cause of death, either by autopsy or otherwise.

In Madison County, in all cases of apparent suicide, homicide, or an accidental death, or deaths where the circumstances of the death are mysterious or obscure in means, the Coroner may conduct an inquest, and may do so in other cases at his discretion.

This protocol is further subject to, and is made pursuant to, all provisions of the Illinois Criminal Code and other statutes controlling the functions and duties of the various officials, law enforcement agencies mentioned herein.

- B. When a person dies as a result of circumstances heretofore specified in Section IIIA of this protocol or is found dead and the cause of death is unknown, the person who discovers the death shall report it immediately to the Coroner and the appropriate local police jurisdiction and the Coroner shall take legal custody of the body. The body shall not be moved from the place of death except upon the authority of the Coroner subject to the concurrence and with respect to the needs of the local or investigative law enforcement agency and the State's Attorney.

- (1) The ultimate objective of a death investigation with potential criminal implications is a precise finding of the cause of death as well as a determination of the person who caused said death; said determination being made in furtherance of the goal that there be sufficient evidence to assure a successful prosecution of the offender in a court of law. The investigating police agency, the

Coroner and the State's Attorney, each, has a valid interest in assuring the success of the investigation and prosecution because all law enforcement officials, especially the State's Attorney, are charged with the faithful execution of the laws of Illinois. Competent and diligent adherence to these duties assures that those persons who violate the peace and dignity of the People of Illinois are apprehended and punished according to law.

- (2) Thus, the appropriate local police agencies, in conjunction with the Coroner, and under the leadership of the State's Attorney, must conduct a thorough investigation that establishes the identity of the victim and the offender, as well as providing all of the competent evidence upon which to proceed with prosecution.
- (3) Initially, the Coroner's lawful function is to establish a cause and manner of death of any person in his jurisdiction who may have been the victim of criminal activity.
- (4) The State's Attorney's Office may provide timely advice and counsel as to the legal consequences of evidence gathering, including the manner thereof. The leadership and good counsel of the State's Attorney assures that the investigative procedures cause all relevant evidence to be presented to triers of fact in all cases within the jurisdiction.

C. The Madison County Coroner's Office, the Madison County Police Agencies, and the Madison County State's Attorney mutually agree that, in all situations covered within the scope of this protocol, where the jurisdiction, set out in paragraph II(C), is present, the aforesaid officers shall make every reasonable effort to assure that a proper post-mortem investigation and/or autopsy (when necessary) is completed.

#### **IV. AGENCIES CONCERNED AND GENERAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

##### **A. Law Enforcement Agencies**

The function of local or investigative police detectives is to collect all evidence from the death scene and from other sources which might provide answers to the questions raised by the circumstances surrounding the death, especially conduct causing the death and violating the laws of Illinois.

## B. Coroner

The Coroner's function is to make all necessary inquiries to establish a cause and manner of death of the deceased person. Specific responsibilities include the following, to-wit:

- (1) To take custody of the decedent's body;
- (2) To take steps necessary by investigative and scientific means to establish a cause of death which may include, but is not necessarily limited to external examination, autopsy examination, investigative interviews, toxicological analysis, radiographic (x-ray) examination, and reenactment/re-creation of the death event.
- (3) To assess physical findings on the body and develop evidence to determine the post-mortem interval (PMI) between the death event and the discovery of the human remains. This can include, but is not to collection of body core temperature, entomological profiling, anthropological assessment, analysis of environmental and anamnestic evidence, and pathology assessment of corporal evidence determined at autopsy.
- (4) To identify the deceased through various forensic evidentiary procedures such as medical and dental records, or by other means as the circumstances require; and
- (5)
  - (a) To inventory any property, items or personal effects of the deceased that might be found on or near the body of the deceased. The custody of said items and personal effects shall be forthwith transferred to the local law agency or investigative agency.
  - (b) None of the aforesaid pieces of property, items, or personal effects of the deceased, on or near the deceased, shall be released by the Coroner (or by the local law enforcement agency) to anyone without permission of the State's Attorney.
- (6) Assure proper notification of the deceased's next of kin.

## C. Fire Departments/Paramedic Rescue

The fire department is generally called to the scene in an effort to preserve the health, life and safety of the victim. In fire-related deaths,



the function of the fire department is to extinguish the fire and determine the cause and origin of the fire in cooperation with the local law enforcement agency and/or the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

#### D. State's Attorney

The State's Attorney, as chief law enforcement officer, shall act as an advisor to all officers and agents involved in the investigation. The State's Attorney shall be promptly informed as to the progress of the investigation so as to be able to properly advise, thus assuring sufficiency of evidence for both a finding of probable cause and a criminal conviction.

### V. NOTIFICATION AND CUSTODY OF THE SCENE

#### A. Law Enforcement Agencies

- (1) The local law enforcement agencies have the primary responsibility for conducting the investigation at a homicide or questionable death scene within their respective venues (i.e., the boundaries of their municipal corporation or county). The local police must be notified, immediately, by whatever agency first arrives on the scene of a homicide or of a suspicious death. An officer of the local law enforcement agency shall immediately go to the scene.
- (2) The local law enforcement agency shall have custody of the scene upon the arrival of its officer, and when practicable law enforcement shall use Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigators to process the crime scene(s) and/or any evidence as it relates to the investigation. Evidence collected in which forensic testing is needed will be submitted to the Illinois State Police Division of Forensic Science unless another certified forensic laboratory is approved. Nothing in this agreement will prohibit the collection of evidence by non Crime Scene Investigation members when a delay in collecting the evidence could lessen the evidentiary value or jeopardize the integrity of that evidence. All other agencies shall follow said local police agency's instructions concerning the processing of the scene, consistent with a criminal investigation. When practical, a member of the investigating agency, Illinois State Police Laboratory, and the State's Attorney shall meet to discuss which evidence will be submitted to the Illinois State Police Laboratory for processing.

However, the body shall not be moved or disturbed in any way, except as is essential for the preservation of another person's life

or in order to effect the immediate collection and preservation of transient evidence. Except in the case of life-saving interventions, steps will be taken to photograph the body as found prior to any seizure.

- (3) The State's Attorney shall be notified by local police as soon as practicable after a homicide is discovered and shall be informed of all circumstances that might require applications for search warrants, blood tests, etc.
- (4) If an agency chooses to use The Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis (MCS), Major Case Squad shall be activated within four (4) hours, based upon Major Case Squad protocol. If a crime comes within the purview of the Major Case Squad's purposes and circumstances indicate that outside help is needed, a ranking officer of the requesting law enforcement agency within the area of the Squad's operation should call the Squad Command Post, designated as the Commander's home department, and advise of the request for assistance.
- (5) When a child, under eighteen (18) years of age, dies or sustains a life-threatening injury that may or may not lead to the death of the child under the age of eighteen (18), it is suggested that the local or State law enforcement agencies, hospital, or coroners promptly notify the Child Death Investigation Task Force. The above agencies shall contact the DCFS Hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE, who shall contact the DCFS Manager who will then contact the Southern Illinois Child Death Investigation Task Force Commander or the Assistant Task Force Commander by phone. The death report shall be faxed to the Child Death Investigation Task Force Coordinator following the phone call.

Requests for assistance may come directly to the Commander or a District Commander from the requesting agency. In these cases the Commander of District Commander will not delay a review for activation pending Hotline notification. The Commander of District Commander will ensure that the matter is reported to the Hotline as soon as possible.

The Child Death Task Force supervisors should, as soon as practical, make the State's Attorney aware of the Child Death Investigative Task Force's activation within their venue, and seek their assistance or guidance as needed.

- (6) All evidence collected for the purpose of testing at the Illinois State Police Laboratory will be maintained by the Illinois State

Police until completion of the testing. Upon completion of the testing, all evidence shall be returned to the investigating agency. Evidence that does not require laboratory testing will be maintained by the investigating agency in accordance with State laws.

## B. Coroner

- (1) The Coroner must be notified immediately by the local law enforcement agency when its personnel arrive on the scene. The Coroner must be allowed to immediately view the body at the scene prior to said body being moved in order to pronounce death. At the scene, the body will not be disturbed in any manner other than by the Coroner's personnel.

If a death has occurred and relatives of the victim, friends of the victim (or the press) arrive at the scene, they shall be referred to the local law enforcement officer in charge at the scene so that the scene is not disturbed and scene security may be maintained.

- (2) When the Coroner arrives at the scene, he shall examine the body, without disturbing same, pronounce death, and immediately notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency (if said notification has not been accomplished). He should then preserve the scene until the arrival of that law enforcement agency. Nothing, including the body, should be disturbed until the local law enforcement agency personnel have arrived and completed their processing of the scene.
- (3) When extraordinary circumstances deem it advisable, it shall remain within the sound discretion of the Coroner as to whether the pathologist is to respond to the scene and consult in the investigation. This is primarily the responsibility of the Coroner.
- (4) The next of kin of the deceased will not be notified by the Coroner's Office without consulting with the local law enforcement agency or the investigating agency and notification will be made by mutual agreement with the local law enforcement agency or the investigative agency.
- (5) In the situation wherein the deceased is a police officer, the law enforcement agency will notify the next of kin according to departmental policy. If the deceased is a fire fighter, then the fire department will notify the next of kin according to departmental policy. The Coroner (or his deputy) may be present at his discretion.

### C. Fire, Paramedic, and Ambulance Units

- (1) Unless the death is obvious, appropriate EMS units shall be notified by the first agency on the scene.
- (2) If the EMS unit is the first agency on the scene where death is obvious, it shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and preserve the integrity of the scene until the arrival of the agency. Law enforcement personnel will take custody of the scene immediately upon their arrival.
- (3) Immediate notification of death shall also be made to the Coroner by either the fire department personnel, paramedics, or any personnel of the ambulance units, or law enforcement personnel, in accordance with the Illinois Compiled Statutes, 5/3-3020 “Coroner to be Notified,” which states in part, to-wit:

3-3020. “Every law enforcement official, funeral director, ambulance attendant, hospital director or administrator, or person having custody of the body of a deceased person, where the death is one subject to investigation under Section 3-3013, and any physician in attendance upon such a decedent at the time of his death, shall notify the Coroner promptly. Any such person failing to so notify the Coroner promptly shall be guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor, unless such person has reasonable cause to believe that the Coroner had already been so notified.”

- (4) ILCS 5/3-3019 also states that:

3-3019. “Removal of Bodies.” “No dead body which may be subject to the terms of this Division or the personal property of such a deceased person, shall be handled, moved, disturbed, embalmed, or removed from the place of death by any person, except with the permission of the Coroner, unless same shall be necessary to protect such body or property from damage or destruction, or unless necessary to protect life, safety, or health. Any person knowingly violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a Class A Misdemeanor or any other charge that may be deemed appropriate (i.e., obstruction of justice).”

### D. State’s Attorney

- (1) In all cases of homicide, probable homicide, dui resulting in death, reckless homicide, or questionable death, and, in law enforcement situations that present a substantial risk of homicide, (i.e.,

barricaded subjects, hostage situations, riots, etc.), the law enforcement investigator in charge of the scene shall immediately assure that the on-call State's Attorney's representative is notified from the periodical duty State's Attorney (on-call) roster (618-296-4231). The State's Attorney's representative will determine whether it is appropriate to respond to the scene. The State's Attorney representative shall respond with additional State's Attorney personnel as necessary after consultation with the local law enforcement officer in charge of the incident. The State's Attorney's Office shall be available for consultation and, if necessary, assistance in applications for search warrants, etc. The State's Attorney, as chief law enforcement officer, shall be kept advised as to the investigation and all decisions made as part of the investigation.

- (2) In all cases involving fatalities that occur during custody or arrest as a result of use of force by law enforcement, the law enforcement agency that is in charge of the scene shall similarly notify the State's Attorney, the First Assistant State's Attorney or the on-call State's Attorney's representative is notified from the periodical duty State's Attorney (on-call) roster (618-296-4231). The State's Attorney's representative will determine whether it is appropriate to respond to the scene. The State's Attorney representative shall respond with additional State's Attorney personnel as necessary after consultation with the local law enforcement officer in charge of the incident. The State's Attorney's Office shall be available for consultation and, if necessary, assistance in applications for search warrants, etc. The State's Attorney, as chief law enforcement officer, shall be kept advised as to the investigation and all decisions made as part of the investigation.
- (3) In regard to an obvious homicide investigation, the Madison County Coroner or his deputy shall personally notify the State's Attorney or his or her designee while at the scene or upon notification of an obvious homicide.

## **VI. PROCEDURES WHEN VICTIM IS NEAR DEATH**

- A. Unless death is obvious at the time the first agency arrives at the scene, all appropriate aid shall be given. Nothing in this procedure outline shall be interpreted to preclude any action necessary to save the life of the victim.

Furthermore, nothing in this protocol shall be construed to prevent fire department rescue squads, paramedics, and ambulance personnel from rendering rescue and medical aid to anyone they believe is not

deceased. Similarly, nothing in this protocol shall be construed to prevent the aforesaid personnel from rendering aid to those whom they believe can be resuscitated or restored by medical aid.

However, consistent with the foregoing, the following procedure shall be observed by all law enforcement agencies, fire, paramedics, or ambulance personnel who render aid to a victim.

- (1) Only those personnel who are actively aiding the victim should be in the immediate area. All others will remain outside the crime scene area, thus avoiding unnecessary disturbance of the scene.
- (2) Nothing in the area shall be touched or disturbed in any way unless required in giving aid to the victim. If the items must be moved, a report of this will be given to the local law enforcement officer in charge of the scene.
- (3) After death has been established, all emergency and medical personnel will immediately withdraw from the scene and follow the instructions of the law enforcement officer in charge of the crime scene and the Coroner who is in charge of the body.
- (4) A complete list of all persons who enter the area will be given to the law enforcement officer in charge of the scene.
- (5) Law enforcement agencies and fire departments shall, upon arrival at the scene, designate an officer in charge who shall enforce these procedures.
- (6) An officer in charge of the fire department or ambulance personnel will document in writing the identity and activity of each of his/her personnel on the scene and said report will be turned over to the law enforcement investigator in charge upon the latter's arrival on the scene.
- (7) In order to preserve evidence which may exist at the scene of a questionable death, we hereby direct all authorized personnel to:
  - (a) Approach the scene with caution; and
  - (b) Enter and leave by the same route. Do not walk through bloodstains or disturb other evidence. Before leaving the scene, check shoes to see if any objects (such as bullets, projectiles, casings or debris) have been picked up on the shoe or soles; and

- (c) Allow only one person to initially approach the scene; and
  - (d) If possible, wear examination gloves, shoe covers, or other items necessary to minimize contamination of the scene; and
  - (e) After a finding of probable death, assess the victim with minimal amount of physical contact and movement. Avoid removing or cutting clothing. Check for a carotid pulse and listen for heart and breath sounds. When obvious signs of death are present, such as lividity, rigor mortis, or putrefaction, do not attach the cardiac monitor or touch the victim unless another person at the scene has begun CPR or emergency medical procedures on the body. Any fire or ambulance personnel must, in those situations, follow their department procedures.
  - (f) Notify the Coroner of where the victim was touched; and
  - (g) If it is necessary to move the victim, note the exact position and location of the victim prior to movement; and
  - (h) Do not touch or move any item at the scene unless absolutely necessary to render care to the patient. Document if items were touched or moved; and
  - (i) Do not cut through blood stains or bullet holes in clothing. In the event that the clothing is cut away from the body or otherwise removed, custody of the article of clothing should be assumed by a responsible responder until seized by law enforcement; and
  - (j) Circle puncture sites and affix your initials that you have made on the victim, if necessary and document such event on subsequent reports.
- (8) The local law enforcement agencies, Coroner, and State's Attorney have a continuing responsibility to coordinate policies and procedures and to provide in-service training to the various fire and rescue services of their jurisdictions to facilitate compliance with the provisions herein. Similarly, first response agency (law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services) administration and management have an ongoing responsibility to assure that subordinate personnel have access to, and knowledge of, this protocol and directive.

- B. The first law enforcement office on the scene shall have custody of the scene until relieved by the investigator in charge. This shall not prevent the Coroner from access to the deceased's body or the scene, including access necessary for the Coroner to conduct an initial investigation so as to determine the cause, manner and time of death.
- C. If the victim is determined to be dead, the officer will secure the scene, cause or assure that the Coroner to be notified and allow no activity which might disturb the evidence until such time the Coroner has been notified and has arrived at the scene to pronounce death.
- D. The body shall not be moved until the Coroner has arrived on scene. At that time, the Coroner shall take charge of the body and the body will not be disturbed at any point unless done so at the Coroner's direction or by his personnel.
- E. The removal of the body shall be directed by the Coroner and/or his representative and shall be done in a manner as prescribed by the Coroner's Office procedures, which include, but are not limited to the removal of the body placed on either a plastic or a white cloth sheet and to be sealed in a body bag. This does not preclude the law enforcement agency to examine and photograph all evidence which is disclosed by the movement of the body, however, it will not allow for any evidence to be removed from the body until such time at the morgue, unless approved by the Coroner.
  - (1) Bodies covered by this procedure shall be placed in a new vinyl body bag and sealed by the Coroner in the presence of the law enforcement investigator. The sealing process may then be photographed by the law enforcement investigator at the crime scene or evidence technicians. To preserve the integrity of the body in the chain of custody of any possible evidentiary items present on or within the body, the seal will not be broken and the body will not be removed from the body bag except by the coroner.
  - (2) The body bag shall be offered to the investigating agency as evidence. It is in the discretion of that agency to determine the evidentiary value of the body bag.
- F. The Coroner shall take custody of the body "as is". All items found on the person of the deceased shall be inventoried by the Coroner. The investigating law enforcement agency personnel shall take custody of all such items, if deemed to be of evidentiary value by the State's Attorney; otherwise, the Coroner is responsible for such custody. No



other agency shall remove or even handle items of evidence or property at the scene.

## **VII. POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION**

- A. A post-mortem examination will be performed by a forensic pathologist at the direction of the Coroner in all cases where the suspected manner of death is a homicide or might be a homicide. Exceptions to this procedure shall be allowed by mutual agreement between the Coroner and the State's Attorney's Office, and the law enforcement agency.
- B. The Coroner will give the appropriate law enforcement agency and the State's Attorney sufficient notice of time and place of autopsy to be performed, so that if warranted they may have two representatives there to collect evidence and observe. One representative may collect physical evidence and take photographs. The second representative may be the one assigned the investigation. The State's Attorney's Office may have two observers at any autopsy. Other adjunctive investigative personnel (i.e. Children and Family Services investigator, CDITF personnel, State Fire Marshall's investigator, etc.) as well as required forensic specialists (i.e. odontologists, anthropologists, consulting pathologists, etc.) may also be present as case management needs dictate. Exceptions to the number of representatives may be made through the Coroner's Office prior to the scheduled time of the autopsy.
- C. Any verbal preliminary status reports, not involving opinions that are given or delivered by the pathologist to the Coroner at the autopsy should be considered that of purely speculative information. The final written autopsy report will not be available until such time that Coroner's investigation has been concluded with the issuance of the death certificate or at such time that the report is released to the State's Attorney or the appropriate law enforcement agency by the Coroner's Office.
- D. The preliminary verbal report of the scene investigation will be made to the Coroner (or his designee) by the law enforcement investigator in charge or his designee. A written report of the scene investigation shall be delivered to the Coroner by the investigator in charge when such report is requested.
- E. At the time the autopsy is being performed, the law enforcement agency shall provide the Coroner and pathologist with all the information obtained from the scene investigation necessary in the

Coroner's and Coroner's Pathologist's opinion for the proper performance of autopsy or the evaluation of autopsy findings.

- F. The pathologist and the Coroner will examine the body and items on the body and collect items of evidentiary value. In most instances, any items of evidentiary value found upon the body will be returned or relinquished to the law enforcement agency or crime laboratory. Any body fluids, tissue, or other samples will be retained and properly examined for evidentiary value.
- G. Any agency requiring certified copies of death certificates may obtain them from the Madison County Clerk's Office, Vital Records Section, County Administration Building, 157 North Main St., Edwardsville, Illinois. All other records relating to the Coroner's investigation are available from the Madison County Coroner's Office. No Coroner records should be secondarily released to the general public.

## **VIII. ORGAN TRANSPLANTS**

The Coroner, the State's Attorney, and the law enforcement agencies of Madison County agree that victims who have died of possible criminal trauma occurring in Madison County are eligible as prospective donors for organ transplants, unless organ transplant would impair or impede the criminal investigation.

## **IX. INFORMATION RELEASE**

Any and all inquiries regarding the victim or the deceased (i.e., injuries, cause of death, manner of death), or any contact reference Coroner's procedures shall be directed to the local law enforcement agency or the Coroner as circumstances may direct for a release, including identification. The press and the media shall be directed to the investigating local law enforcement agency unless such questions refer to that of the specific nature of the body. All information concerning the body involved in the incident shall be released directly from the Coroner's Office.

We admonish all law enforcement agencies and the Coroner's Office that the Illinois Supreme Court has issued certain rules to the State's Attorneys of Illinois concerning statements that the Supreme Court has deemed may be prejudicial to the accused's rights to a fair trial.

The Supreme Court Rules allow the following information to be released:

- (1) The claim, offense or defense involved and, except when prohibited by law, the identity of the persons involved;

- (2) The information contained in a public record;
- (3) That an investigation of a matter is in progress;
- (4) The scheduling or result of any step in litigation;
- (5) A request for assistance in obtaining evidence and information necessary thereto;
- (6) A warning of danger concerning the behavior of a person involved, when there is reason to believe that there exists the likelihood of substantial harm to an individual or to the public interest; and
- (7) In a criminal case, in addition to subparagraphs (1) through (6):
  - (i) The identity, residence, occupation, and family status of the accused;
  - (ii) If the accused has not been apprehended, information necessary to aid in apprehension of that person;
  - (iii) The fact, time, and place of arrest; and
  - (iv) The identity of investigation and arresting officers or agencies and the length of the investigation.

The Supreme Court Rules also prohibit the following information from being released:

- (1) The character, credibility, reputation or criminal record of a party, suspect in a criminal investigation or witness, or the identity of a witness, or the expected testimony of a party or witness;
- (2) In a criminal case, the possibility of a plea of guilty to the offense or any confession, admission, of a defendant or suspect or that person's failure to make a statement;
- (3) The results of or the failure of a person to submit to an examination or test, or the nature of physical evidence expected to be presented;
- (4) Any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of a defendant or suspect in a criminal case;
- (5) Any information that is likely to be inadmissible; or

- (6) The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime, unless there is included therein a statement explaining that the charge is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

## **X. CONCLUSION**

The State's Attorney, as chief law enforcement officer of the County, shall be responsible for the ongoing implementation of this protocol as well as assuring the cooperation of all agencies so as to assure the proper investigation of all situations involving homicide, reckless homicide or any questionable death of a human being in Madison County, Illinois. All other chiefs, directors, and officers of the agencies listed in this protocol shall be responsible for the continuing training of all personnel of their departments so as to assure the ongoing implementation of this protocol.

The Chiefs, officers and personnel hereinafter listed by their signatures affixed hereto do hereby bind themselves and all persons under their supervision and command to carry out each and every part of this protocol. By their signatures hereon, they also bind their successors.

PROMULGATED ON AUGUST 3, 2023

SIGNATURE PAGE



Thomas A. Haine  
State's Attorney  
Madison County, Illinois

/s/ Chad Loughrey

Chad Loughrey  
First Assistant State's Attorney  
Madison County, Illinois



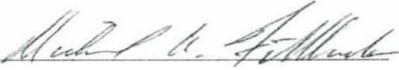
Brendan F. Kelly  
Director  
Illinois State Police

/s/ Jarrett Ford

Jarrett Ford  
Police Chief  
Alton Police Department

/s/ Steve Evans

Steve Evans  
Police Chief  
Collinsville Police Department



Michael Fillback  
Police Chief  
Edwardsville Police Department



Todd Link  
Police Chief  
Glen Carbon Police Department

/s/ Stephen Nonn

Stephen P. Nonn  
Coroner  
Madison County, Illinois



Jeff Connor  
Sheriff  
Madison County, Illinois

/s/ Michael Lewis

Lt. Michael Lewis  
District Commander  
Illinois State Police

/s/ Mike Dixon

Mike Dixon  
Police Chief  
Bethalto Police Department



Scott Golike  
Police Chief  
East Alton Police Department



Gerald Brown Jr.  
Police Chief  
Fairmont City Police Department



Mike Nordstrom  
Police Chief  
Granite City Police Department

/s/ Justin Rottmann

Justin Rottmann  
Police Chief  
Grantfork Police Department

/s/ Dan Geil

Dan Geil  
Police Chief  
Hartford Police Department

/s/ Matt Sinnokrak

Matt Sinnokrak  
Police Chief  
Livingston Police Department



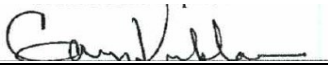
Brent Stewart  
Police Chief  
Marine Police Department



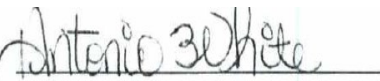
Chris Modrusic  
Police Chief  
Pontoon Beach Police Department



Justin Lieberman  
Police Chief  
SIUE Police Department



Gary Kukla  
Police Chief  
St. Jacob Police Department



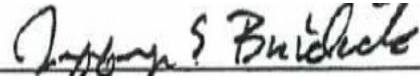
Antonio White  
Police Chief  
Venice Police Department

/s/ Alan Winslow

Alan Winslow  
Police Chief  
Hamel Police Department

/s/ Carole Presson

Carole Presson  
Police Chief  
Highland Police Department



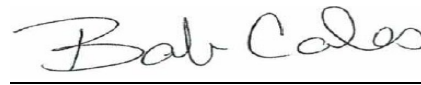
Jeff Bridick  
Police Chief  
Madison Police Department



Robert Carpenter  
Police Chief  
Maryville Police Department



William Cunningham  
Police Chief  
Roxana Police Department



Bob Coles  
Police Chief  
South Roxana Police Department



Brent Shownes  
Police Chief  
Troy Police Department

/s/ Don Wayne Watkins

Don Wayne Watkins  
Police Chief  
Williamson Police Department

/s/ Brad Wells

Brad Wells  
Police Chief  
Wood River Police Department



Lindell Barton  
Police Chief  
Alton Southern Railroad Police

/s/ Brian Buhs

Brian Buhs  
Fire Chief  
Bethalto Fire Department



Ryan Norton  
Fire Chief  
Cottage Hills Fire Department

/s/ Timothy Quigley

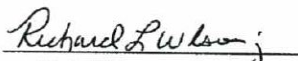
Timothy Quigley  
Fire Chief  
East Alton Fire Department

/s/ Robert Allen

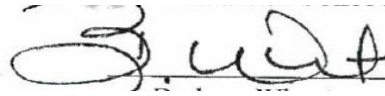
Robert Allen  
Fire Chief  
Fairmont City Fire Department



Jason Whitaker  
Fire Chief  
Glen Carbon Fire Department



Rich Wilson  
Fire Chief  
Grantie City Fire District



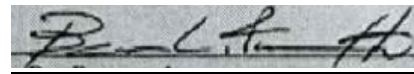
Barbara Wheat  
Police Chief  
Worden Police Department

/s/ Jesse Jemison

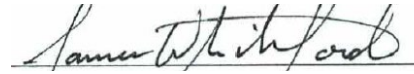
Jesse Jemison  
Fire Chief  
Alton Fire Department




John Bailot  
Fire Chief  
Collinsville Fire Department



Ben Farnsworth  
Fire Chief  
Dorsey Fire Department



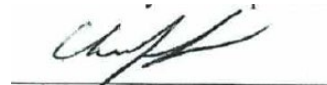
James Whiteford  
Fire Chief  
Ewardsville Fire Department



Don Palmer  
Fire Chief  
Fosterburg Fire Department

Eric D. Cranmer

Eric Cranmer  
Fire Chief  
Godfrey Fire District



Chris Johnson  
Fire Chief  
Hamel Fire Department

/s/ Jarrod Horyn

Jarrod Horyn  
Fire Chief  
Hartford Fire Department

/s/ Phillip Decker

Phillip Decker  
Fire Chief  
Highland-Pierron Fire District

Terry Kreher

Terry Kreher  
Fire Chief  
Long Lake Fire District

/s/ Daren Kessinger

Daren Kessinger  
Fire Chief  
Marine department

Curtis Troutman

Curtis Troutman  
Fire Chief  
Meadowbrook Fire Department

Corey Williams

Corey Williams  
Fire Chief  
Rosewood Heights Fire Protection District

/s/ Robert Newberry

Robert Newberry  
Fire Chief  
South Roxana Fire Department

David Birk

David Birk  
Fire Chief  
St. Louis Regional Airport

Chris Straub

Chris Straub  
Fire Chief  
Highland Fire Department

Robert Pollett

Robert Pollett  
Fire Chief  
Livingston-Williamson Fire Department

David Klee

David Klee  
Fire Chief  
Madison Fire Department

Doug Dankenbring

Doug Dankenbring  
Fire Chief  
Maryville Fire Department

Joe Lee

Joe Lee  
Fire Chief  
Mitchell Fire Department

Daryl Trask

Daryl Trask  
Fire Chief  
Roxana Fire Department


Nic Klaus

Nic Klaus  
Fire Chief  
St. Jacob Fire Department

/s/ Michael Mason

Michael Mason  
Fire Chief  
State Park Fire Department





Richard Haase  
Fire Chief  
Staunton Fire Department

/s/ George May

George May  
Fire Chief  
Troy Fire Protection District



Thomas Brent  
Fire Chief  
Venice Fire Department



R. Wade Stahlhut  
Fire Chief  
Wood River Fire Department

/s/ Jeremy Lair

Jeremy Lair  
EMS Captain  
Troy Fire Protection District