

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY D. OLSON

A Resolution relating to expediting the process for identifying a deceased person.

WHEREAS, it is essential that the identification of a deceased person occur as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, as soon as a deceased person is identified, it is critically important that the deceased person's family be immediately notified about the death of the person; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

That the Attorney General is requested to assemble a group to collaboratively develop and propose a law, rule, or policy, applicable on a statewide basis, that establishes a process and assigns responsibilities to various agencies and departments at both the state and local level to assist a person seeking additional information about the identity of a deceased person and whose death requires an investigation by a law enforcement agency or medical examiner, so that identification of the deceased person can be determined as soon as possible. In developing the new law, rule, or policy, the Attorney General shall collaborate with the Department of Public Safety, the State Medical Examiner, the Interagency Coordinating Council, the Tama County medical examiner, the Tama County sheriff, county medical examiners, police chiefs, victim services organizations, funeral home directors, the media, the faith community, and persons who have received death notifications; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new law, rule, or
2 policy shall address the proper evidence to be
3 collected from the deceased person and the scene
4 around such a person to expedite the identification
5 process, how any collected evidence is to be used to
6 collect additional identifying information, who shall
7 be involved in making the decision to seek additional
8 information, and who shall be assigned to collect and
9 disclose such information; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new law, rule, or
11 policy shall consider what agency or department should
12 be contacted in the event an unidentified deceased
13 person is discovered, who is responsible for
14 contacting such agencies or departments, and what
15 documents or records should be examined by the
16 contacted agencies or departments; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new law, rule, or
18 policy shall determine who shall contact any suspected
19 family members of the deceased person or any other
20 person who may identify the deceased person, and when
21 and how such contact should take place; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new law, rule, or
23 policy shall determine how and when the deceased
24 person should be viewed by the suspected family
25 members of the deceased person or any other person in
26 order to identify the deceased person; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the new law, rule, or
28 policy shall address how the decision is made that the
29 deceased person has been sufficiently identified so
30 the death notification process can commence; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the proposed law,
2 rule, or policy shall establish a process for
3 notifying family members, in a timely and dignified
4 manner, of the death of a person when the death
5 requires an investigation by a law enforcement agency
6 or medical examiner.

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