	Approv	/ed	:
Date	February		

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 2002 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office Renea Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes Office

June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Lorne Phillips, KDHE

Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties Erik Mitchell, M.D., Shawnee County District

Coroner

Nancy Lindberg, Attorney General's Office

Others Attending: See Affached Sheet

The Chairperson announced the <u>HB 2688 - Addictions Counselor Licensure Act</u> would be transferred to the Sub-Committee on Credentialing. The Sub-Committee will have a meeting February 5, immediately after the full committee meeting.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on <u>HB 2666 - Child Autopsies, court ordered</u>, elimination of unfunded liability for.

Dr. Wolff gave a briefing on HB 2666.

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips, Director, Center of Health and Environmental Statistics, testified as a proponent to <u>HB 2666</u>, stating prior to 1988 the public policy required the board of county commissioners to pay for autopsies ordered by coroners. To ensure that autopsies were performed whenever children died in their first year "due to circumstances where death was not anticipated or the cause of death was unknown...," (SIDs) the 1998 Legislature enacted K.S.A. 22a-238. This relieved the board of county commissioners of responsibility for payment and assigned it to KDHE.

The average cost of an autopsy requested by a coroner is slightly less than \$1,000. During the 1994-1998 period, an annual appropriation of approximately \$200,000 would have been needed for KDHE to meet statutory requirements to pay for all coroner ordered autopsies for children less than 18 years of age. Since funds were not appropriated for this purpose since the change in the legislation in 1992 and the number of requests for autopsy reimbursements were small, the department made a decision to charge the autopsy bills to the Coroner Fee Fund. The number of counties requesting reimbursements for autopsies has increased dramatically and the question has been raised as to the legality of use of the Coroner Fee Fund to reimburse under K.S.A. 22a-242(f). An unfunded liability exists and with current revenue conditions and projections, assuming the Legislature would not appropriate funds for KDHE payments, enactment of the proposed amendment of K.S.A. 22a-242(f) would eliminate future unfunded liability (Attachment 1).

Judy Moler, Legislative Services Director/General Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in strong opposition of **HB 2666**. The bill removes the Kansas Department of Health and Environment from its current statutory obligation to pay for autopsies ordered by county coroners under K.S.A. 22a-242, i.e. death of children of suspicious circumstance or unknown cause (Attachment 2).

Dr. Erik Mitchell, Shawnee County Coroner, testified in opposition of <u>HB 2666.</u> In 2001 the onset of the present financial crisis for the State of Kansas, KDHE began to deny payment for

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 2002.

claims made for reimbursement, despite the prior consistent pattern of reimbursement for all autopsies of children under the age of 17.

The denials of payment began only after the Coroner's Association began to make other Counties aware of the provisions of K.S.A. 22a-242 and bills began to come to the Department of Health and Environment from Counties not previously aware of such an option.

In today's financial climate, KDHE's reluctance to release funds for death investigation was understandable. We let it be known that we would continue to submit bills, but in the short run with the expectation of non-payment. We expressed interest in trying to obtain for KDHE a specific designated appropriation in future budget cycles, and would collect the billing information in anticipation of support for such an attempt (Attachment 3).

Nancy J. Lindberg, State Child Death Review Board, testified opposing <u>HB 2666</u> and asked instead to consider leaving the language in the statute and adding a possible amendment. The reimbursement to counties for the cost of autopsies for deaths involving children is of vital importance.

The Board's primary concern is that the result of this legislation, in the long-run, would decline in thorough and quality death investigations. It is impossible to fully investigate child deaths unless autopsies are performed, because underlying causes cannot be discovered. The autopsies are not performed, the Board is limited in its ability to learn enough to prevent future deaths (Attachment 4).

Jaime L. Oeberst, M.D., Deputy District Coroner-Medical Examiner, provided written testimony opposing <u>HB 2666</u> (Attachment 5).

The Chairperson closed the hearing on HB 2666.

The Chairperson opened the hearing on <u>HB 2718 - Certified copies of abstracts or vital records.</u>

Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department, gave a briefing on HB 2718.

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips, Director, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics, testified as a proponent for HB 2718, stating the 2001 session the Kansas Legislature granted approval to establish a capital improvement project "... for financing facilities, equipment, technology and other capital improvements for the implementation and maintenance of the vital statistics integrated information system... A functional requirement of the re-engineered system is to make it possible to establish records of vital events through application of technological advances, particularly web-based communication and electronic transaction systems. One of the features of the re-engineered system will include capability to electronically capture and store all of the source information of each new vital record. To enhance timeliness of service to customers, this capability will make it possible to create a legal document, a certified abstract.

A certified abstract will make it possible for customers to present a secure, authentic vital record in a format more commonly recognized by officials to establish official documents such as drivers' licenses and passports or to secure services such as airline tickets and boarding passes (Attachment 6).

The Chairperson closed the hearing on HB 2718.

Vice Chairperson Morrison asked if it would help if the fee were changed from \$1.00 to \$3.00?

Dr. Phillips replied it would be great.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 2002.

The Chairperson asked staff for an update on <u>HB 2057 - Repealing the medical student scholarship program</u>.

Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes, briefed the committee of the changes that have occurred to the bill since it was written and heard in committee last year. He will draft a balloon showing the changes as the committee needs to deal with the bill as it applies to current law. There isn't anything subjective, but need the dates changed and technical changes.

Representative Long moved and Representative Showalter seconded bill introduction to change the makeup of the Board of Cosmetology. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 and will meet February 5, 2002.



BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

Testimony on Elimination of Unfunded Liability for Court-Ordered Child Autopsies (HB 2666)

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips Director, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics

February 4, 2002

Chairperson Boston and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss legislation to eliminate future unfunded liability for KDHE to pay for autopsies ordered by coroners when deaths of children occur.

Prior to 1988, public policy required the board of county commissioners to pay for autopsies ordered by coroners. To ensure that autopsies were performed whenever children died in their first year "...due to circumstances where death was not anticipated or the cause of death was unknown...," (in other words, for SIDs death) the 1988 Legislature enacted K.S.A. 22a-238. The 1988 enactment relieved the board of county commissioners of responsibility for payment and assigned it to the State (KDHE). Subsequently, when K.S.A. 22a-238 was repealed in 1992 and K.S.A. 22a-241 et seq. was enacted. The creation of the Child Death Review Board, State (KDHE) responsibility for payment of autopsies ordered by coroners was retained [(K.S.A. 22a-242(f))] and the impact was that it now covered autopsies for all non-natural deaths not just SIDS deaths.

Review of child fatalities by the State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) provides clear evidence of the magnitude of payment responsibility. During the five-year period, 1994-1998, the SCDRB reviewed a total of 2,443 child fatalities, an average of 489 per year. Of these deaths 1,046 were classified as non-natural deaths and fall into the category of potential cases for autopsies. This is an average of 209 potential autopsies each year. The average cost of an autopsy requested by a coroner is slightly less than \$1,000. Therefore, during the 1994-1998 period, an annual appropriation of approximately \$200,000 would have been needed for KDHE to meet statutory requirements to pay for all coroner ordered autopsies for children less than 18 years of age. Since funds were not appropriated for this purpose since the change in the legislation in 1992 and the number of requests for autopsy reimbursements were small, the department made a decision to charge the autopsy bills to the Coroner Fee Fund. However, over the last year a couple of things have happened. First, the number of counties requesting reimbursements for autopsies has increased dramatically and secondly, the question has been raised as to the legality of use of the Coroner Fee Fund to reimburse under K.S.A. 22a-242(f). The KDHE legal opinion is that the specific statutory language K.S.A. 22a-233 regarding distribution of the monies in the Coroner Fee Fund precludes its use for autopsy reimbursement by the state. Consequently, an unfunded liability exists.

With current revenue conditions and projections, assuming the Legislature would not appropriate funds for KDHE payments, enactment of the proposed amendment of K.S.A. 22a-242(f) would eliminate future unfunded liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the House Health and Human Services Committee. I will be pleased to respond to any questions members of the committee may have regarding this topic.

¹Annual Report 1998 Data, State Child Death Review Board, April 2001, p.7.



TESTIMONY

concerning House Bill No. 2666

re. Autopsy Costs

House Health and Human Services Committee

Presented by Judy Moler, Legislative Services Director/General Counsel
Kansas Association of Counties
February 4, 2002

Chairman Boston and members of the committee, my name is Judy Moler representing the Kansas Association of Counties. I am here today to express our strong opposition to House Bill No. 2666. The bill removes the Kansas Department of Health and Environment from its current statutory obligation to pay for autopsies ordered by county coroners under K.S.A. 22a-242, i.e. deaths of children of suspicious circumstance or unknown cause.

The bill transfers a cost, previously paid by counties and reimbursed by KDHE, entirely to counties and county budgets. We view this legislation as yet one more example of the State of Kansas attempting to solve its budget problem by shifting a cost to counties, and county property taxpayers.

It is our understanding that in the six years of 1994 through 1999, 1,255 suspicious deaths were reported in Kansas, from which 814 autopsies were performed. If the average cost of an autopsy ranges from \$850 to \$1,200, the additional cost to counties would range from \$115,000 to \$250,000 annually, depending on how many autopsies are performed in a given year. Some might argue that this is not a large sum of money. For the State of Kansas, it is relatively small. For individual counties, however, this is a financial burden that can only be paid by property taxpayers.

In summary, we urge you to table this legislation and instead, work with the Appropriations Committee to finance a state obligation in the FY 2003 budget and not merely shift your budget problem to counties. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties, an instrumentality of member counties under K.S.A. 19-2690, provides legislative representation, educational and technical services and a wide range of informational services to its member counties. Inquiries concerning this testimony should be directed to Randy Allen or Judy Moler by calling (785) 272-2585.

6206 SW 9th Terrace Topeka, KS 66615 785•272•2585 Fax 785•272•3585 email kac@ink.org

HsHHS 2.4.02 Atch#2 Representative Gary Boston House Health and Human Services Committee State Capitol Topeka, Kansas

4 February 2002

Dear Chairman Boston and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on the issue of House Bill 2666 and to oppose its passage.

I stand before you as District Coroner for the 3rd, 5th, and 7th Districts and as a spokesman for the Kansas Coroner's Association. I am also a member of the Kansas State Child Death Review Board, though statements made here must be considered my own and not those of the Board.

Here is the history of State reimbursement for Child Autopsies, as best I know.

The State Child Death Review Board was created in the early '90s in order to promote child welfare and to ensure quality of child death investigations in the State. One of the provisions of the statute (KSA 22a-242) was that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment should reimburse Counties for the cost of autopsies performed in accordance with the statute.

My predecessor in the 3rd District Coroner's Office, Dr. George Thomas, was actively encouraged, as happened later also to me, by a person in the Department of Health and Environment to submit bills for reimbursement on the County's behalf. Since 1993, then, Shawnee County submitted bills to, and was reimbursed by, the Department of Health and Environment for autopsy costs associated with child death investigation, in accord with existing statute. Beginning in 2001, the onset of the present financial crisis for the State of Kansas, the Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) began to deny payment for claims made for reimbursement, despite the prior consistent pattern of reimbursement for all autopsies of children under the age of 17.

The denials of payment began only after the Coroner's Association began to make other Counties aware of the provisions of KSA 22a-242 and bills began to come to the Department of Health and Environment from Counties not previously aware of such an option.

The initial argument presented by KDHE was that the statute only was designed to reimburse payment for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome deaths, but examination of the statute and of past practices did not support such an explanation. We were at one point even told that "suspicious deaths" would be reimbursed, but if the case proved to be a homicide, i.e. suspicions were confirmed, that reimbursement would be denied! In other words, successful investigations would be rewarded with denial of payment.

Later, we were informed by Lorne Phillips, Ph.D., of Vital Statistics, that reimbursement monies had been taken from the Coroner's Fund, designed to promote timely completion of Coroner's Death Certificates. All Counties were entitled to receive annual reimbursement from the Coroner's Fund on a flat rate per Death Certificate filed. Thus, the Counties could not be reimbursed the proper amount from the Coroner's Fund when money had already been removed from that account in order to pay for investigative costs. In other words, payments made in the past did not come from a specific appropriation, had been improperly been taken from a fund not authorized for such use, and were no longer available.

In today's financial climate, KDHE reluctance to release funds for death investigation was understandable. In previous communication with Secretary Graeber, we acknowledged the situation and let it be known that we would continue to submit bills, but in the short run with the



expectation of non-payment. We expressed interest in trying to obtain for KDHE a specific designated appropriation in future budget cycles, and would collect our billing information in anticipation of support for such an attempt.

KDHE has elected to abolish the reimbursement mechanism for child death autopsy investigation. As Coroners we must oppose House Bill 2666, since removal of support for investigation of child deaths will send exactly the opposite message to Counties than that KSA 22a-242 is designed to promote.

As Coroners we previously discussed the possibility of filing against the State for the now denied payments, but elected not to pursue such an aggressive course, in recognition of the current financial crisis. House Bill 2666, introduced without notice to the Coroners, put a new perspective on the relationship between KDHE and the Coroners.

KDHE is again this year entailing funds, and apparently increasing fees, in order to support increased development of electronic filing of Death Certificates (House Bill 2718), which will increase the ability to collate and use data. In contrast, KDHE is attempting to eliminate funding for the Coroners: funds necessary to ensure that the data collected is, in fact, valid. Compiling incomplete or inaccurate information is inadvisable and counterproductive. We would suggest that the quality of the data be ensured before funding is directed towards increased ease of manipulation of the data collected.

The last reform of the Coroner's Statutes two years ago, initiated by KDHE and supported by the Kansas Funeral Director's Association, (KDFA) changed the State from County of Incidence (Cause) of Death to County of Death. Now, Counties with hospitals absorb investigative costs of deaths of out-of-county residents, where previously each County investigated all Coroner's Cases that originated in their own County. Yet another side effect of removal of reimbursement for child deaths would be to, once again, increase the non-reimbursed burden upon Counties with hospitals, for children would typically be taken to the closest hospital before death was pronounced.

As far as the Coroner's Office is concerned, insult added to injury does not improve our situation. Death investigation in Kansas is not well supported by the State and removal of one of the few financial supports may have significant long-term impact upon maintenance of investigative efforts.

I thank you once again for your attention.

Copies of previous correspondence to and from KDHE are included in your packets.

Erik Krag Mitchell, M.D. Shawnee County Coroner's Office 320 South Kansas Ave., Suite 400 Topeka, Kansas, 66603-3644

785-368-2350

Enc.

2-2



KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

SIDS AND CHILD DEATH AUTOPSY REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Statutory Authority: Reimbursement for autopsies completed per K.S.A. 22a-242 (attached) may be requested from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Reimbursable Services: This reimbursement is for the professional services of the pathologist to include travel allowance if necessary; transport of the body for the purpose of the autopsy; and related autopsy procedures/services, e.g. laboratory tests, autopsy table, autopsy assistant.

Timely Billing: Bills for these services should be mailed to KDHE in a timely manner (within 30 days of the autopsy/service) to assure the availability of funds for services provided within a state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). KDHE understands that some specialized autopsy related procedures may take longer than 30 days, but bills for these services should be forwarded to KDHE as soon as possible.

Billing Process: Submit the following to KDHE:

- 1. Autopsy report
- 2. Invoice that includes:

Name of infant/child, date of birth and date of death

Date of service and service description (See reimbursable services for examples)

Amount charged (itemized)

Name and address of individual or company to which payment should be made.

Include: Social Security Number or FEIN Number

NOTE: Autopsy related specimens, X-Rays, other related materials and reports should be retained at the local facility consistent with facility policy and/or professional standards.

Mail to:

Bureau for Children, Youth and Families

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Landon State Office Building 900 SW Jackson, Ste. 1005 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1220 Attention: Perinatal Consultant

This information should be shared with the appropriate individua the reimbursement process.

Questions regarding the billing procedure should be directed to t or FAX 785-296-4166.

11/99; 4/00

D:\MyFiles\sidschilddeath\autopsyreimbprocess.00.wpd

DIVISION OF HEALT Bureau for Children, Youth and

Landon State Office Building 900 SW Jackson, Room 1005 (785) 296-1306

CHILD DEATH REVIEW BOARD

Attorney General's Opinions:

State child death review board; extent of confidentiality provision. 93-58.

22a-241. Definitions. As used in K.S.A. 22a-241 through 22a-244, and amendments thereto:

- (a) "Child" means a person less than 18 years of age.
- (b) "Pathologist" means a forensic pathologist, if available. Otherwise, "pathologist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery and qualified to conduct an autopsy.
- (c) "State review board" means the state child death review board established by K.S.A. 22a-243.
- (d) "Suspicious circumstances" includes, but is not limited to, abuse or neglect.

History: L. 192, ch. 312, § 31; July 1.

- 22a-242. Child death, notification of coroner; autopsy; notification of state review board; notification of parent or guardian; SIDS death; fee for autopsy. (a) When a child dies, any law enforcement officer, health care provider or other person having knowledge of the death shall immediately notify the coroner of the known facts concerning the time, place, manner and circumstances of the death. If the notice to the coroner identifies any suspicious circumstances or unknown cause, as described in the protocol developed by the state review board under K.S.A. 22a-243 and amendments thereto, the coroner shall immediately: (1) Investigate the death to determine whether the child's death included any such suspicious circumstance or unknown cause; and (2) direct a pathologist to perform an autopsy.
- (b) If, after investigation and an autopsy, the coroner determines that the death of a child does not include any suspicious circumstances or unknown cause, as described in the protocol developed by the state review board under K.S.A. 22a-243 and amendments thereto, the coroner shall complete and sign a nonsuspicious child death form.
- (c) If, after investigation and an autopsy, the coroner determines that the death of a child includes any suspicious circumstance or unknown cause, as described in the protocol developed by the state review board under K.S.A. 22a-243 and amendments thereto, the coroner shall notify, within 30 days, the chairperson of the state review board and shall notify, within 24 hours, the county or district attorney of the county where the death of the child occurred.
- (d) The coroner shall attempt to notify any parent or legal guardian of the deceased child prior to the performance of an autopsy pursuant to this section and

- attempt to notify any such parent or legal guardian of the results of the autopsy.
- (e) A coroner shall not make a determination that the death of a child less than one year of age was caused by sudden infant death syndrome unless an autopsy is performed.
- (f) The fee for an autopsy performed under this section shall be the usual and reasonable fee and travel allowance authorized under K.S.A. 22a-233 and amendments thereto and shall be paid from moneys available therefor from appropriations to the department of health and environment. The reasonableness of all claims for payment of a fee for an autopsy under this section shall be determined by the secretary of health and environment.

History: L. 1992, ch. 312, § 32; L. 1994, ch. 279, § 27; July 1.

- 22a-243. State child death review board; executive director; development of protocol; annual report; confidentiality of records;
- rules and regulations. (a) There is hereby established a state child death review board, which shall be composed of:
- (1) One member appointed by each of the following officers to represent the officer's agency: The attorney general, the director of the Kansas bureau of investigation, the secretary of social and rehabilitation services, the secretary of health and environment and the commissioner of education;
- (2) three members appointed by the state board of healing arts, one of whom shall be a district coroner and two of whom shall be physicians licensed to practice medicine and surgery, one specializing in pathology and the other specializing in pediatrics;
- (3) one person appointed by the attorney general to represent advocacy groups which focus attention on child abuse awareness and prevention; and
- (4) one county or district attorney appointed by the Kansas county and district attorneys association.
- (b) The chairperson of the state review board shall be the member appointed by the attorney general to represent the office of the attorney general.
- (c) The state child death review board shall be within the office of the attorney general as a part thereof. All budgeting, purchasing and related management functions of the board shall be administered under the direction and supervision of the attorney general. All vouchers for expenditures and all payrolls of the board shall be approved by the chairperson of the board and by the attorney general. The state review board shall establish and maintain an office in Topeka.
- (d) The state review board shall meet at least annually to review all reports submitted to the board. The

chairperson of the state review board may call a special meeting of the board at any time to review any report of a child death.

- (e) Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the state review board shall appoint an executive director who shall be in the unclassified service of the Kansas civil service act and shall receive an annual salary fixed by the state review board.
- (f) Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the state review board may employ other persons who shall be in the classified service of the Kansas civil service act.
- (g) Members of the state review board shall not receive compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage and expenses as provided by K.S.A. 75-3223 and amendments thereto for attending meetings or subcommittee meetings of the board.
- (h) The state review board shall develop a protocol to be used by the state review board. The protocol shall include written guidelines for coroners to use in identifying any suspicious deaths, procedures to be used by the board in investigating child deaths, methods to ensure coordination and cooperation among all agencies involved in child deaths and procedures for facilitating prosecution of perpetrators when it appears the cause of a child's death was from abuse or neglect. The protocol shall be adopted by the state review board by rules and regulations.
- (i) The state review board shall submit an annual report to the governor and the legislature on or before October 1 of each year, commencing October 1993. Such report shall include the findings of the board regarding reports of child deaths, the board's analysis and the board's recommendations for improving child protection, including recommendations for modifying statutes, rules and regulations, policies and procedures.
- (j) Information acquired by, and records of, the state review board shall be confidential, shall not be disclosed and shall not be subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding, except that such information and records may be disclosed to any member of the legislature or any legislative committee which has legislative responsibility of the enabling or appropriating legislation, carrying out such member's or committee's official functions. The legislative committee, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-4319 and amendments thereto, shall recess for a closed or executive meeting to receive and discuss information received by the committee pursuant to this subsection.
- (k) The state review board may adopt rules and regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of K.S.A. 22a-241 through 22a-244 and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1992, ch. 312, § 33; L. 1994, ch. 279, § 28; July 1.

22a-244. Same; activation of board to investigate; access to records; subpoena power; report issued; disclosure of conclusions. (a) Within 72 hours after receipt of notification from a coroner pursuant to K.S.A. 22a-242, the chairperson of the state review board may activate the board to investigate and make a written report regarding the death.

- (b) The state review board shall have access to all law enforcement investigative information regarding the death; any autopsy records and coroner's investigative records relating to the death; any medical records of the child; and any records of the department of social and rehabilitation services or any other social service agency which has provided services to the child or the child's family within three years preceding the child's death.
- (c) The state review board may apply to the district court for the issuance of, and the district court may issue, a subpoena to compel the production of any books, records or papers relevant to the cause of any death being investigated by the board. Any books, records or papers received by the board pursuant to the subpoena shall be regarded as confidential and privileged information and not subject to disclosure.
- (d) The state review board's report shall contain the circumstances leading up to the death and cause of death; any social service agency involvement prior to death, including the kinds of services delivered to the dead child or the child's parents, siblings or any other children in the home; the reasons for initial social service agency activity and the reasons for any termination of agency activities if involvement was terminated; whether court intervention had ever been sought and, if so, any action taken by the court; and recommendations for prevention of future death under similar circumstances.
- (e) Within 15 days of its activation pursuant to this section, the state review board shall complete and transmit a copy of its written report to the county or district attorney of the county in which the child's death occurred. If the death of the child occurred in a different county than where the child resided, a copy of the report shall be sent to the county or district attorney of the county where the child resided or, if the child resided in another state, to the child protective services agency of that state.
- (f) The state review board shall maintain permanent records of all written reports concerning child deaths.
- (g) The state review board may disclose its conclusions regarding a report of a child death but shall not disclose any information received by the board

which is not subject to public disclosure by the agency that provided the information to the board.

(h) Information, documents and records otherwise available from other sources are not immune from discovery or use in a civil or criminal action solely because they were presented during proceedings of the state review board. A person who presented information before the board or who is a member of the board shall not be prevented from testifying about matters within the person's knowledge.

History: L. 1992, ch. 312, § 34; July 1.

22a-245. District coroners fund; allocations and distributions. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the district coroners fund.

- (b) Moneys in the district coroners fund shall be allocated and distributed to each county on March 15 of each year based on the number of recorded deaths in the county during the previous calendar year as a ratio of the total number of deaths in this state during the previous calendar year. Such distributions shall be credited to the county general fund to assist in paying for the district coroner's expenses pursuant to chapter 2 of article 22a of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto. Moneys in the district coroners fund shall not be expended to the county general fund until such time as all outstanding death certificates for the previous calendar year are filed with the state registrar and such certificate contains the final cause of death.
- (c) Payments to counties under this act shall be made upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of health and environment or by a person or persons designated by the secretary of health and environment.

History: L. 1993, ch. 214, §17; July 1. Cross References to Related Sections: Death certificate charge, see 65-2418.

22a-246. Evidence taken before body cremated if criminal investigation likely; preservation of records.

- (a) When the death of a person is a death described in K.S.A. 22a-231 and amendments thereto and a criminal investigation is or is likely to be conducted regarding the death and the body is to be cremated, the district coroner or the coroner's agent having charge of the body shall cause to be taken such evidence to identify the dead person, including but not limited to:
- (1) A forensic dental examination to be made of the body, which examination shall include complete charting, dental x-rays and detailed dental intra-oral photographs;
 - (2) the complete maxillia and mandible of the body

to be removed and preserved; or

- (3) a clear recording or print of the complete ridge structure that may be present on the hands and feet of the body.
- (b) If a forensic dental examination is made pursuant to subsection (a), the coroner shall cause two copies of the examination records to be made.
- (c) All records and copies of records of a forensic dental examination or ridge structure print made pursuant to this section, or any maxilliae and mandible removed pursuant to this section, shall be preserved and retained in evidence until all criminal investigations and judicial proceedings that may arise from such death are finally determined.

History: L. 1993, ch. 214, § 18; July 1.



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

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C: Votterhead wpd

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

August 12, 1999

SHAWNEE COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE 320 S KANSAS, SUITE 400 TOPEKA KS 66603-3644

RE: TIMELY FILING OF CHILD DEATH AUTOPSY BILLINGS

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment just received bills for child death autopsy related services provided by your agency in the amount of \$6,670.75. An amount of \$6,420.85 was for services provided prior to July 1, 1999. In one case the service was provided more than six months ago. We will begin processing of the purchase order for these services, but there is the potential for a delay in your agencies receipt of reimbursement for the services provided in SFY99 (July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999).

KDHE attempts to encumber funds to cover bills that are received after the end of the state fiscal year (June 30). It is difficult however, to anticipate the amount to encumber. Therefore, timely filing of the SIDS and child death autopsy billings for services covered per K.S.A. 22a-242, is appreciated.

The "SIDS and Child Death Autopsy Reimbursement Process" guidance, prepared by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), that your office should have on file (see attached), timely billing is defined as "within 30 days of the autopsy". KDHE understands that some specialized autopsy related procedures may take longer than 30 days, but it is requested that bills for these services (e.g. specialized laboratory tests) be forwarded to KDHE as soon as possible.

Your assistance in the future by filing these bills in a timely manner will be appreciated and should assure the availability of funds for services provided within a specific state fiscal year (SFY).

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to my office, 785-296-1306.

Sincerely,

Rita Kay Ryan, PhD, ARNP Perinatal Consultant

Attachment

C:\MyFiles\allener.new wpd

DIVISION OF HEALTH
Bureau for Children, Youth and Families

Landon State Office Building 900 SW Jackson, Room 1005 (785) 296-1306

Printed on Recycled Paper

Topeka, KS 66612-1220 FAX (785) 296-4166



KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR

Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

FAX TRANSMITTAL

1/25/01

To:

Kim

Fax #:

368-2380

From:

Rita Davenport

Pages + Cover:

1+1

Thank Kim

Message:

Action needed by:

For your comment

As you requested As we discussed

Please call me aboutFor your information

 $\overline{}$

Please review and forward

If you do not receive all pages, please phone me at (785) 206-1306

C:\Lcttcrhead.wpd

DIVISION OF HEALTH
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Topeka, KS 66612-1220 FAX (785) 296-4166



KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR

Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

SIDS AND CHILD DEATH AUTOPSY REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Statutory Authority: Reimbursement for autopsies completed per K.S.A. 22a-242 (attached) may be requested from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Reimbursable Services: This reimbursement is for the professional services of the pathologist to include travel allowance if necessary; transport of the body for the purpose of the autopsy; and related autopsy procedures/services, e.g. laboratory tests, autopsy table, autopsy assistant.

Timely Billing: Bills for these services should be mailed to KDHE in a timely manner (within 30 days of the autopsy) to assure the availability of funds for services provided within a state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). KDHE understands that some specialized autopsy related procedures may take longer than 30 days, but bills for these services should be forwarded to KDHE as soon as possible.

Billing Process: Submit the following to KDHE:

- Autopsy report
- Invoice that includes:

Name of infant/child, date of birth and date of death

Date of service and service description

Amount charged (itemized)

Name and address of individual or company to which payment should be made.

Social Security Number or FEIN Number

NOTE: Autopsy related specimens, X-Rays, other related materials and reports should be retained at the local facility consistent with facility policy and/or professional standards.

Mail to:

Bureau for Children, Youth and Families

Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Landon State Office Building 900 SW Jackson, Ste. 1005 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1220

Attention: Rita Kay Ryan, PhD, ARNP

This information should be shared with the appropriate individuals within the county or agency(ies) to facilitate the reimbursement process.

Questions regarding the billing procedure should be directed to Rita Kay Ryan, PhD, ARNP, Perinatal Consultant, 785-296-1306, FAX 785-296-4166, or E-mail <rryan@kdhe.state.ks.us>

1/96; Updated 12/98

B:\sidschildrebrs.99.wpd

DIVISION OF HEALTH

Bureau for Children, Youth and Families

Landon State Office Building 900 SW Jackson, Room 1005 (785) 296-1306

Printed on Recycled Paper

Topeka, KS 66612-1220 FAX (785) 296-4166/

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Shawnee County Coroner/Medical Examiner

Erik K. Mitchell, M.D. Coroner/Medical Examiner 320 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 400 Topeka, KS 66603-3644 785-368-2350

Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary Department of Health and Environment 400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite 200 Topeka, Kansas 66603

25 April 2001

Dear Secretary Graeber,

Since 1993 there has been a statutorily defined Child Death Review Process for the State of Kansas with the creation of a Child Death Review Board. At the time of inception of the board, and the adoption of the enabling statute (22a-242), there was recognition that to attain the goals of the Board there would need to be improvement in the quantity and quality of child death investigations in Kansas. In that vein, a reimbursement mechanism was created for the Counties to recoup some of the costs of the related death investigations.

Beginning in 1993 and continuing until 2000, KDHE reimbursed Counties for the costs of autopsies of children whose deaths were investigated in accord with 22a-242. In fact, we were contacted and urged to ensure that all applicable cases were billed to the State.

Beginning in 2001, we have a dramatic shift in the KDHE reimbursement of the County. Our claims, routinely paid for 7 years, are now routinely denied. We are now told that only SIDS cases are to be reimbursed. We are also told that HOMICIDES detected at autopsy are not suspicious deaths, and reimbursement is denied (catch-22? If autopsy proves a homicide the death is no longer suspicious. Reimbursement is precluded if the autopsy actually provides an answer?). We are told that deaths in a recent fire, where there is indication of possible arson, do not qualify for reimbursement though 22a-242 makes specific mention of the investigation of "suspicious or unknown cause".

Our understanding is that the monies for reimbursement come from the Coroner's fund in the budget. Have recent State shortfalls resulted in a fiduciary raid on same? This situation appears confused, to us.

We can live with a defined consistent procedure for reimbursement schedules consistent with statute. To the best of our knowledge the recent change in the KDHE approach parallels a change in your staff, not a change in Statute, and we would appreciate the opportunity to engage you in discussion of the Statute and of KDHE regulations with respect to reimbursement so that we may clarify to our superiors what is to be expected in the future, barring statutory revisions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Erik Krag Mitchell, M.D. 3rd,5th, 7th District Coroner.

Cc: Shawnee County Counsel
Shawnee County Commissioners
Lyon County Commissioners
Douglas County Commissioners

3-12



BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

May 7, 2001

Erik Krag Mitchell, MD Coroner/Medical Examiner 320 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 400 Topeka, Kansas 66603-3644

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Thank you for bringing to our attention your concerns regarding KDHE reimbursement for child autopsies. Our staff have reviewed your concerns to determine if there has been a narrowing of interpretation relating to reimbursable autopsies and subsequently, it has been clarified with new staff responsible for reimbursement reviews, that the coroner billing will constitute a reimbursable autopsy for suspicious child death.

Our staff have initiated reimbursement processes with the Shawnee County Coroner's Office staff and this process will be expedited through our system. If you have further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office or Rita Davenport at 785-296-1306.

Sincerely,

Clyde D. Graeber

Secretary

CDG/lk

c Michael Moser, MD
Linda Kenney
Ileen Meyer
Rita Davenport
Dr. Lorne A. Phillips



BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

October 10, 2001

Dr. Erik Mitchell Shawnee County Coroner's Office 320 S. Kansas, Suite 400 Topeka, Kansas 66603-3644

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Enclosed are several child death billing forms sent by your office to KDHE requesting reimbursement. Unfortunately, we are unable to honor payment on these. Because of increased pressure on the District Coroner's Fund to pay for autopsies, we requested a legal opinion on distribution of these funds. Our legal staff has determined that moneys from that Fund can only be disbursed according to KSA 22a-245 which states that funds can only be "allocated and distributed to each county on March 15 of each year based on the number of recorded deaths in the county during the previous calendar year..."

In complying with the statutory language, KDHE will no longer pay for autopsies of any kind with District Coroner or any other funds. Please feel free to call me if you have questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Clyde D. Graeber

Secretary

slp Encs.

cc:

Linda Kenney

Rita Davenport

Dr. Lorne A. Phillips Dr. Michael Moser



BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

October 11, 2001

Dr. Erik Mitchell Shawnee County Coroner's Office 320 S. Kansas, Suite 400 Topeka, Kansas 66603-3644

Dear Dr. Mitchell:

Enclosed are several additional child death billing forms sent by your office to KDHE requesting reimbursement. I'm sorry that they were not included with the envelope and letter we mailed yesterday which explained why we are returning these.

Rita Davenport can answer any questions about individual billings.

Sincerely,

Sharon Patnode Assistant Secretary

Encs.

cc:

Linda Kenney Rita Davenport



Shawnee County Coroner/Medical Examiner

Erik K. Mitchell, M.D. Coroner/Medical Examiner 320 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 400 Topeka, KS 66603-3644 785-368-2350

Clyde D. Graeber Secretary Kansas Department of Health and Environment Signature Building 1000 S.W. Jackson, Suite 540 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1368

12 October 2001

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2001.

It is our understanding that after years of disbursement of payments for autopsies by KDHE from the District Coroner's fund, and previous encouragement by KDHE personnel that such bills should be submitted, there is legal determination that such disbursements are in fact not permitted by statute. There is statutory provision for reimbursement of County autopsy costs by KDHE, but there is not, apparently, an appropriation to fund such payments.

By reason of the confusion engendered by past practice on the part of KDHE, and the precedent set by prior payments, a general notice to all Counties and Coroners concerning the new payment policy would seem fitting. Such a missive would reduce further confusion about potential payments by KDHE to the Counties for autopsies performed under the statutory provisions that demand investigation of childhood deaths.

There is statutory reference that indicates KDHE will pay for certain autopsy costs, despite the lack of actual allocation of funds to pay for same. The jurisdictions for which we provide service will continue to forward bills to the KDHE with the full expectation that, at present, such bills will remain unpaid. The reduction in reimbursements sends an unfortunate signal to Kansas Counties, in that there is the statutory demand for improved investigation of childhood deaths, but removal of funding. Individual Counties' priorities are likely to follow those of the State, with negative impact upon the State Child Death Review Board's efforts to use death investigation as a means to develop strategies in the arena of preventable childhood deaths.

While the 2002 budget process probably would not accommodate a funding request for death investigative efforts, we could plan for such provisions in the 2003 budget cycle. The State could potentially leverage a relatively modest investment into significant effect upon the policies of the various Counties.

For the purposes of discussion, please consider making a KDHE funding request, and modification of Statute, for \$300,000 to \$400,000 per annum, state wide. Develop a consensus minimum performance standard for death investigation and then offer reimbursement from the allocation, at \$1000 per case, for the 2nd to the 5th cases of each year, for each County that conforms to the minimum standard for all of its caseload. Small Counties in Western Kansas would have all but the first case of the year covered by State reimbursement: the numbers would be so low. Large Counties, such as Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Johnson, would be largely unaffected since standards would be already intrinsically in effect. Smaller mid-sized Counties would have a small enough caseload that the \$3000 investment could leverage improvement in the rest of the case investigations. The larger mid-sized Counties would be less directly effected, but eventually conform by reason of the effect that the consensus standard would have on the legal process.

Just a proposal, but should you have interest we could have discussion with the Kansas Medical Society, the Kansas Coroner's Association, and other interested parties. The Kansas Medical Society is already in the process of review of the Coroner System, The Kansas Funeral Directors would have interest in improvement and consistency of standards, and the Coroners would most definitely be interested in improved investigative abilities.

Sincerely,

Erik Krag Mitchell, M.D.



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

MARY H. DUDLEY, M.D. — CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER -DISTRICT CORONER

JAIME L. OEBERST, M.D. — DEPUTY DISTRICT CORONER-MEDICAL EXAMINER

TIMOTHY P. ROHRIG, Ph.D. — DIRECTOR, FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

SHARI BECK — CHIEF MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR

PATRICIA R. BIRD — CHIEF FORENSIC PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT

MARY K. ORR — ADMINISTRATOR

February 4, 2002

Representative Gary Boston
Health and Human Services Committee
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Chairman Boston and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of Sedgwick County and as a member of the State Child Death Review Board, I am writing to oppose State Bill 2666. This bill would do away with the funds provided by the Department of the Health and Environment for reimbursement for conducting autopsies for child deaths.

My opposition to this bill is primarily due to a concern that cases of child deaths where an autopsy would be necessary to determine an exact cause of death would not be performed if the funds were not available. Lack of autopsies in certain cases may result in compromising investigations regarding deaths under suspicious circumstances; abuse or neglect.

While I am aware of the current budgetary constraints, I feel it is necessary to keep the current language of the law intact so that the funds can be accessed as they become available. This is the only way to ensure that child deaths are adequately investigated and a conclusion regarding the cause and manner of death for that child can be obtained.

Sincerely yours,

Jaime L. Oeberst, M.D.

Deputy District Coroner-Medical Examiner

raine L. Oeferst MD

JLO:jf

1109 N. Minneapolis - Wichita, Kansas 67214-3129 - Telephone (316) 383-4500 - Fax (316) 383-4535

STATE CHILD DEATH REVIEW BOARD



Carla J. Stovall Kansas Attorney General

Memorial Building, 2nd Floor 120 SW Tenth Avenue Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-2215 (785) 296-6296 fax

Nancy Lindberg, Chairperson Assistant to the Attorney General Topeka

Jaime Oeberst, MD Deputy Coroner Wichita

Keith Schroeder, JD Reno County District Attorney Hutchinson

Paula Ellis Social and Rehabilitation Services Topeka

Sarah Johnston, MD Kansas State Board of Education El Dorado

Mary McDonald, JD Children's Advocate Wichita

Katherine Melhorn, MD Pediatrician Wichita

Erik Mitchell, MD District Coroner Topeka

Lorne Phillips, PhD State Registrar Topeka

Terry Morgan, SSA KBI Overland Park February 4, 2002

Representative Garry Boston House Health and Human Services Committee State Capitol Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) I would ask that you not support the provisions contained in HB 2666, but instead consider leaving the language in the statute and adding a possible amendment. The reimbursement to counties for the cost of autopsies for deaths involving children is of vital importance.

The SCDRB is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency board that examines the circumstances surrounding the deaths of all Kansas children (birth through 17 years of age) and children who are not Kansas residents, but who die in the state. The goals of the SCDRB are to describe trends and patterns of child deaths in Kansas, to develop prevention strategies, and to improve sources of data and communication among agencies so that recommendations can be made.

The Board's primary concern is that the result of this legislation, in the long-run, will be a decline in thorough and quality death investigations. It is impossible to fully investigate child deaths unless autopsies are performed, because underlying causes cannot be discovered. When autopsies are not performed, the Board is limited in its ability to learn enough to prevent future deaths.

Although the Board recognizes the financial problems facing the state at this time and is not advocating for financing of the state's statutorily recognized requirement to actually fund the autopsies out of the State General Fund. Instead, we would suggest that you amend the District Coroners Fund, K.S.A. 22a-245 to cover the fees to be paid for autopsies as outlined in K.S.A. 22a-242f.

The state has recognized the importance of the autopsies it requires in this area and the state's obligation to pay for them. Please leave this system in place.

I thank the Committee for its time and attention to the Board's concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Lindberg Chair, SCDRB



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

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MARY K. ORR — ADMINISTRATOR

February 4, 2002

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Sincerely yours,

Jaime L. Oeberst, M.D.

Deputy District Coroner-Medical Examiner

gaine L. Oelerst, M.

JLO:jf



BILL GRAVES, GOVERNOR Clyde D. Graeber, Secretary

Testimony on Authority to Produce Certified Abstracts of Vital Records (HB 2718)

to

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Presented by Dr. Lorne A. Phillips
Director, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics

February 4, 2002

Chairperson Boston and members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss the need for authority to produce certified abstracts of vital records.

Enactment of the Vital Statistics Act in 1951 (K.S.A. 65-2401 et seq.) predates information management and technology systems which are in use today. Since such capabilities did not exist when the Act was implemented, manual processes were required to prepare, store, retrieve and reproduce vital records. Whenever a copy of the record was produced, a statement of authenticity needed to be placed on the document to ensure the document would satisfy legal requirements. A person with proper authority was required to sign the statement to certify that the document was a copy of the original certificate. Consequently, to preserve the legal integrity of such documents, the concept of certification was incorporated into statute, as reflected in K.S.A. 65-2417. Although advanced technology of optical imaging was implemented nearly 47 years later to reduce the amount of labor intensive work associated with producing a copy of a vital record, each copy requires certification, for it is a reproduction of the optical image of the original certificate.

The 2001 Session of the Kansas Legislature granted approval to establish a capital improvement project "... for financing facilities, equipment, technology and other capital improvements for the implementation and maintenance of the vital statistics integrated information system..." (2001 Session Laws of Kansas, ch. 168, sec. 3). A functional requirement of the re-engineered system is to make it possible to establish records of vital events through application of technological advances, particularly web-based communication and electronic transaction systems. One of the features of the re-engineered system will include capability to electronically capture and store all of the source information of each new vital record. To enhance timeliness of service to customers, this capability will make it possible to create a legal document, a certified abstract.

A certified abstract will make it possible for customers to present a secure, authentic vital record in a format more commonly recognized by officials to establish official documents such as drivers' licenses and passports or to secure services such as airline tickets and boarding passes.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the House Committee on Health and Human Services. I will be pleased to respond to any questions members of the committee may have regarding this topic.

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or Topeka Topeka Topeka Topeka	e. City ok Town	Topeka	IS PLACE OF RES. WITHIN CITY LIMITS? YES No [8]
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7. PARENT: I hereby certify that the information above is correct to the est of my knowl- dge and belief. Signature Date	a. How many OTHER children are now living?	b. How many OTHER dren were born alive b now dead?	e. How many children were stillborn (born dead after 29 weeks pregnancy)?
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This is a true and correct copy of the official record on file in the Office of Vital Statistics, Topeka, Kansas, certified on the date stamped below.

200 FEB -4 AM 11: 04

A01395143

orne A. Viv., Ph.D.

file Sal Statistics partner of Health & Environment

It is in violation (SA) 2422d(g) if "prepare or issue we difficate which purports to be an original, certified and tecopy of a certificate of bit death, except as authorized in this act of orders and regulations adopted under the certificate."

CERTIFIED COSES WILL BE PRODUCED ON MELTI-COLOR SECURITY PAPER.

6-2a

STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT CERTIFIED ABSTRACT OF BIRTH

STATE FILE NUMBER

NAME OF REGISTRANT

DATE AND TIME OF BIRTH

CITY OF BIRTH

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME

MOTHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH

MOTHER'S AGE

\$\$576376

Use for Births 1962 to current DATE FILED

JEX

OUNTY OF BT

ATHER'S NAME

FATHER'S PLACE OF BIRTH

FATHER'S AGE

THIS IS A TRUE CERTIFICATION OF NAME AND BIRTH FACTS AS RECORDED IN THIS OFFICE.

DATE ISSUED

JOSEPH D. CARNEY STATE REGISTRAR

Do not accept unless prepared on security paper with engraved border displaying the Colorado state seal and signature of the Registrar. PENALTY BY LAW, Section 25-2-118, Colorado Revised Statutes, 1982, if any person alters, uses, attempts to use or furnishes to another for deceptive use any vital statistics record. NOT VALID IF PHOTOCOPIED.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE

6-3