EMT-B Death Decision Chart

Time Frame

Unwitnessed Collapse

Witnessed Collapse

Rigor Mortis

attempt Resuscitation

Yes

No

STOP

Livor Mortis

Fixed

Not Fixed

STOP

Torso Touch Temperature

Cool/Cold

Warm

Weather Related?

Attempt Resuscitation

Warm weather

Cold Weather

Suspect Hypothermia?

STOP

Attempt Resuscitation

These steps can be taken with minimal movement of a body.

Rigor Mortis is the stiffening of the joints.

Livor Mortis is movement of the blood cells to the lowest point of the body.

Torso temperature is by touch. Do not check extremities.
When contacting the Coroner’s Office in the case of a Natural Death please have the following information available:

Decedent’s name: ________________________________

DOB: ______________________ SSN: ______________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Scene address if different: ___________________________

Location of body: (bed, floor, toilet, garage etc.) ________________

Time declared dead: ________________ By whom: ____________

Last date/time known alive: _________________________________________________________

Any complaints at that time: ______________________________________________________

Circumstances surrounding the death:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Medical history:

Family doctor: __________________________ Phone #: __________________________

Physician notified if different: _________________________________________________

Medications:

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

Medications appear to be taken as prescribed? ie. Appropriate # left??

Next of Kin: ________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________

Phone: _________________________________________________________

Have NOK been notified?

Funeral Home chosen by NOK: _____________________________________________