



P I N A L • C O U N T Y
wide open opportunity

March 27, 2014

Mortuary Owners, Employees, and Representatives—

Arizona Revised Statutes §36-301.19 defines a "health care provider" as follows:

- (a) A physician licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 13 or 17.
- (b) A doctor of naturopathic medicine licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 14.
- (c) A midwife licensed pursuant to chapter 6, article 7 of this title.
- (d) A nurse midwife certified pursuant to title 32, chapter 15.
- (e) A nurse practitioner licensed and certified pursuant to title 32, chapter 15.
- (f) A physician assistant licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 25.
- (g) A health care provider who is licensed or certified by another state or jurisdiction of the United States and who works in a federal health care facility.**

Upon a close review of subsection (g) and after consultation with State of Arizona Birth and Death Registry personnel, the Pinal County Medical Examiner's Office (PCMEO) interprets this subsection to indicate that the health care provider can work in a federal health care facility anywhere, not just one working in a federal health care facility in Arizona. As such, on deaths reported to our office, if we determine that the decedent received "current care" from an out-of-state health care provider at an out-of-state federal health care facility, with "current care" defined as treatment for an acute or chronic natural condition within the past 18 months, to include the prescribing of medications for said condition(s), we will not assume Medical Examiner jurisdiction unless there are other factors or conditions that require the invocation of our jurisdiction. If at a later time the health care provider, upon good cause, refuses or declines to certify the death, we will then assume jurisdiction and determine the extent of examination required to certify the cause and manner of death.

Thank you for your continued patience while we streamline our processes with an emphasis on professional, efficient, and customer-service oriented medicolegal death investigation services. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any PCMEO-related issue, do not hesitate to contact me at 520-866-7270 or Paul.Parker@pinalcountyaz.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Parker, B.S., D-ABMDI
Chief Investigator
Pinal County Medical Examiner's Office
570 W. Adamsville Road
Florence, AZ 85132
Desk: 520-866-7270
Paul.Parker@pinalcountyaz.gov