



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE



Views of the Commission Communication with Next of Kin and Other Family Members

Type of Work Product: Adjudication of Public Comments on Draft Document

Public Comment Summary:

Two comments received. One related to a typographical error and another was unclear on the comment recommendation.

Adjudication Process Used by Subcommittee:

Comments reviewed and discussed by MDI Sub-committee co-chair, John Fudenberg and sub-committee member, Laura Crandall.

Itemized Issues and Adjudication Summary:

1. Second paragraph under “View of the Commission”: “Information should include, but not limited to: notification of death, an overview and rationale of the death investigation process, establishing realistic expectations of the investigation process and the availability of information during this process, how the NOK or other designated family member will receive updated case information including the determination of cause and manner of death and access to autopsy reports.”

*The manner in which notification should take place/be delivered and the substance of the information provided should be additional elements of the policies “to support these sensitive interactions.”

Action Taken: None, Recommendation is unclear.

2. Under the “Background” section, paragraph 3: “While mental health liaison services through the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy and Sexual Assault Response Teams exist, the majority of family members affected by medicolegal death investigations do to qualify for such services.” Typo? “do not qualify....”

Action Taken: “to” changed to “not”