

Reporting a Fetal Death to the Center for Health Statistics:

1 First determine if fetal death or live birth with subsequent death

Whether a delivery is a fetal death or is a live birth, a medical determination must be made.

What is a fetal death?

- When a fetus dies unintentionally, **prior to** the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.
- The death is indicated by the fact that the fetus does not breathe or show **any** other evidence of life. Evidence of life includes: beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of the voluntary muscles.

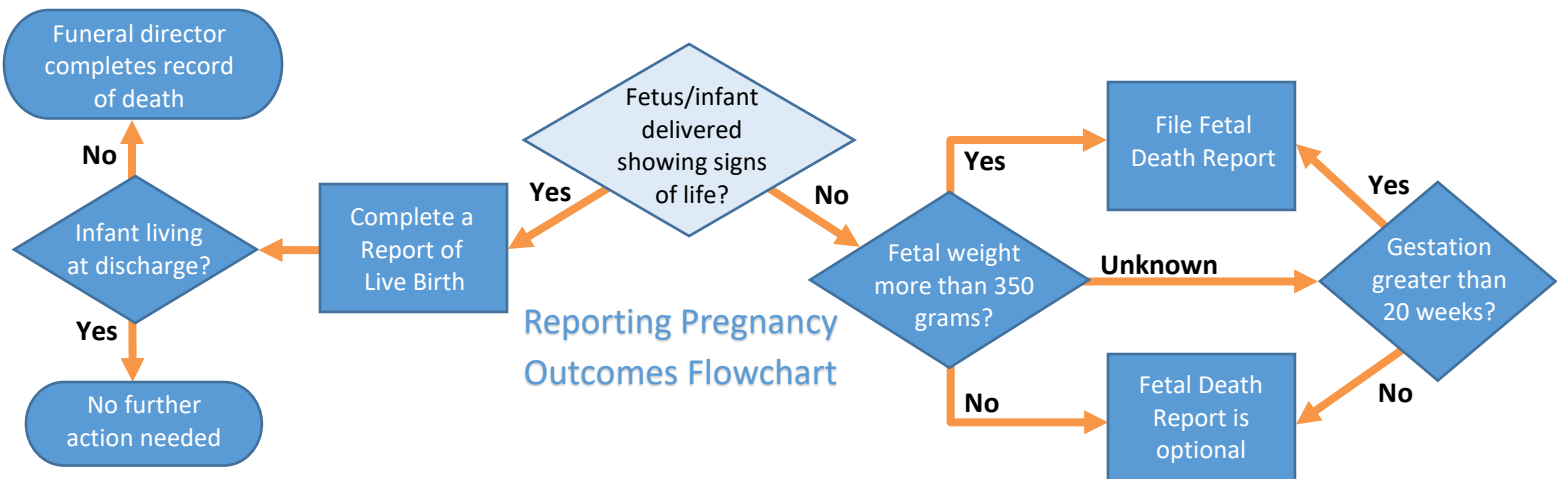
If a baby is born alive and dies shortly after birth:

- **DO NOT** file a fetal death report.
- **DO NOT** give parents or funeral home a fetal disposition form (form is not legally valid for a live birth).
- **DO** complete a report of live birth (funeral home will complete the report of death).

2 Determine if fetal death report is required to be filed

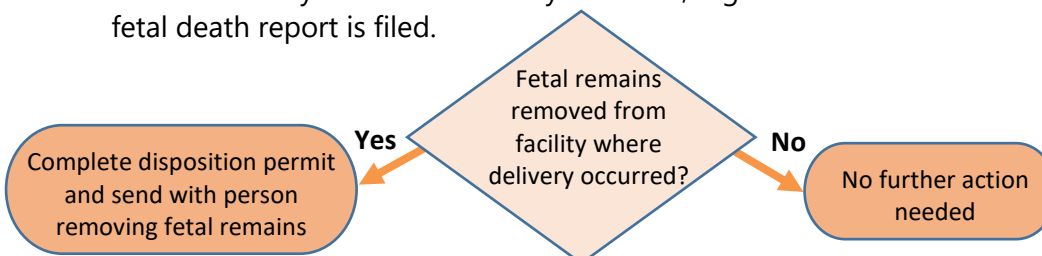
A fetal death is required to be reported to the Center for Health Statistics when:

- The fetal weight is 350 grams or more.
- If weight is unknown, the gestation period is greater than 20 weeks.
- If the report is not required to be filed, the family can request that a fetal death report be completed for commemorative certificate purposes.



3 Determine if disposition permit must be completed

A disposition permit is always required when fetal remains are removed from the facility where the delivery occurred, regardless of whether a fetal death report is filed.



Disposition permits can be found in OVERS, by clicking on 'Forms' → 'Print Forms' → 'Fetal Death Disposition Permit (45-3D)'

Additional information about fetal death, including current versions of the fetal death facility and parent worksheets, can be found in the Fetal Death section on the following pages: bit.ly/orvrBIS -or- bit.ly/orvrMEDEXAM