



Fetal Death Reporting

Center for Health Statistics



Oregon
Health
Authority



Today's Agenda

- **Definition of Fetal Death**
- **Requirements to Report (who, what, when)**
- **Collecting information using the Fetal Death Parent and Facility Worksheets**
- **Transporting Fetal Remains – Disposition Permits**



Legal Definition of Fetal Death

ORS 432.005 (14)

“Fetal death” means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, that is not an induced termination of pregnancy. The death is indicated by the fact that after such expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of the voluntary muscles.





Key indicators of fetal death

Fetus is delivered **without:**

- a heart beat
- a breath
- umbilical cord pulsation
- voluntary movement



How is fetal death determined?

A medical determination must be made whether a delivery is a fetal death or a live birth.

Defined by law

– Fetal Death

- No signs of life after extraction or expulsion ORS 432.005 (14)
- Required to be reported **only** if the delivery weight is 350 grams or more, or 20 weeks gestation or more if delivery weight is unknown. ORS 432.143



What is not a fetal death?

If an infant is born showing signs of life but dies shortly thereafter

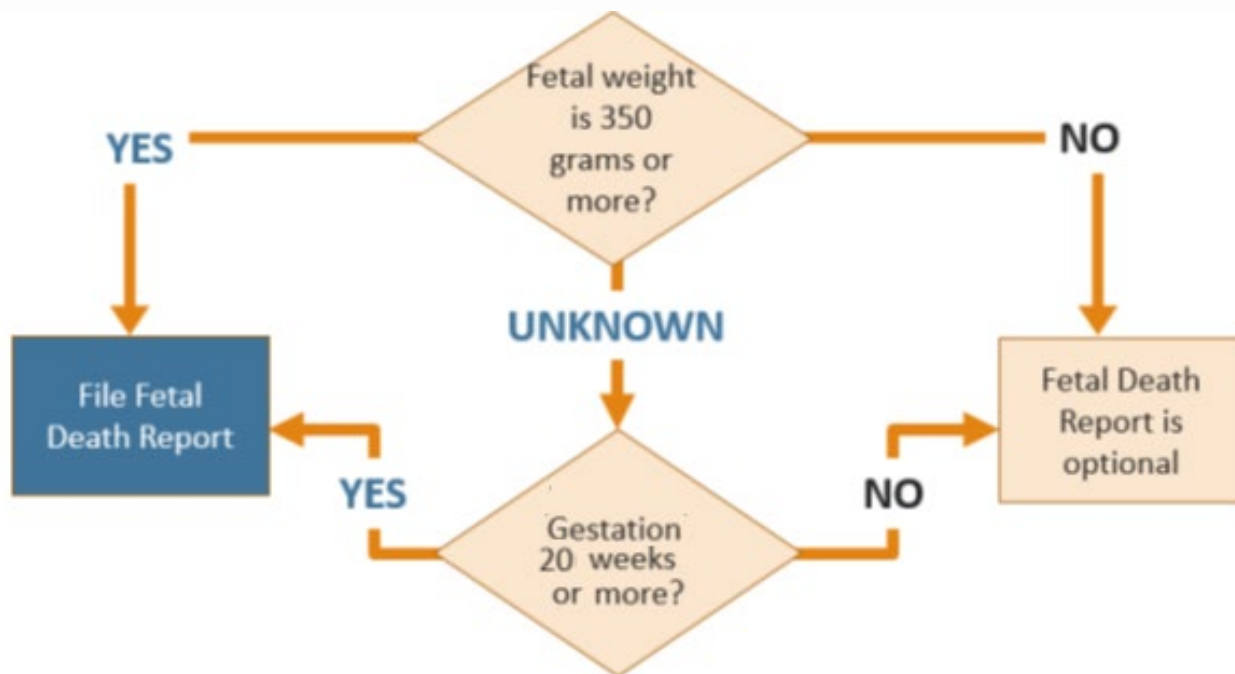
- **Signs of life include**
 - Heartbeat
 - Breath
 - Voluntary Movement
 - Pulsation of the Umbilical Cord

An Induced Termination of Pregnancy (ITOP) is NOT a fetal death

- ITOP is the purposeful interruption of pregnancy
- ITOP is required to be reported ORS 432.075

Fetal Death Reporting Requirements – What is mandatory to report?

- Weight of the fetus is 350 grams or more
- If the weight is unknown, then report if the gestation period is 20 weeks or more





Certificate of Stillbirth

- Certificates of Stillbirth are available to biological parents.
- A fetal death record is required.
- You may file a fetal death report even though the fetus does not meet the minimum mandatory reporting criteria if the parents want a commemorative Certificate of Stillbirth or a certified copy of the fetal death certificate.
- For Non-mandatory reports, it is necessary to complete the personal and medical information, including the delivery weight.



Reporting Requirements – When is a fetal death report required to be filed?

Mandatory reports of fetal deaths must be filed at the Center for Health Statistics within 5 days of the event.
ORS 432.143



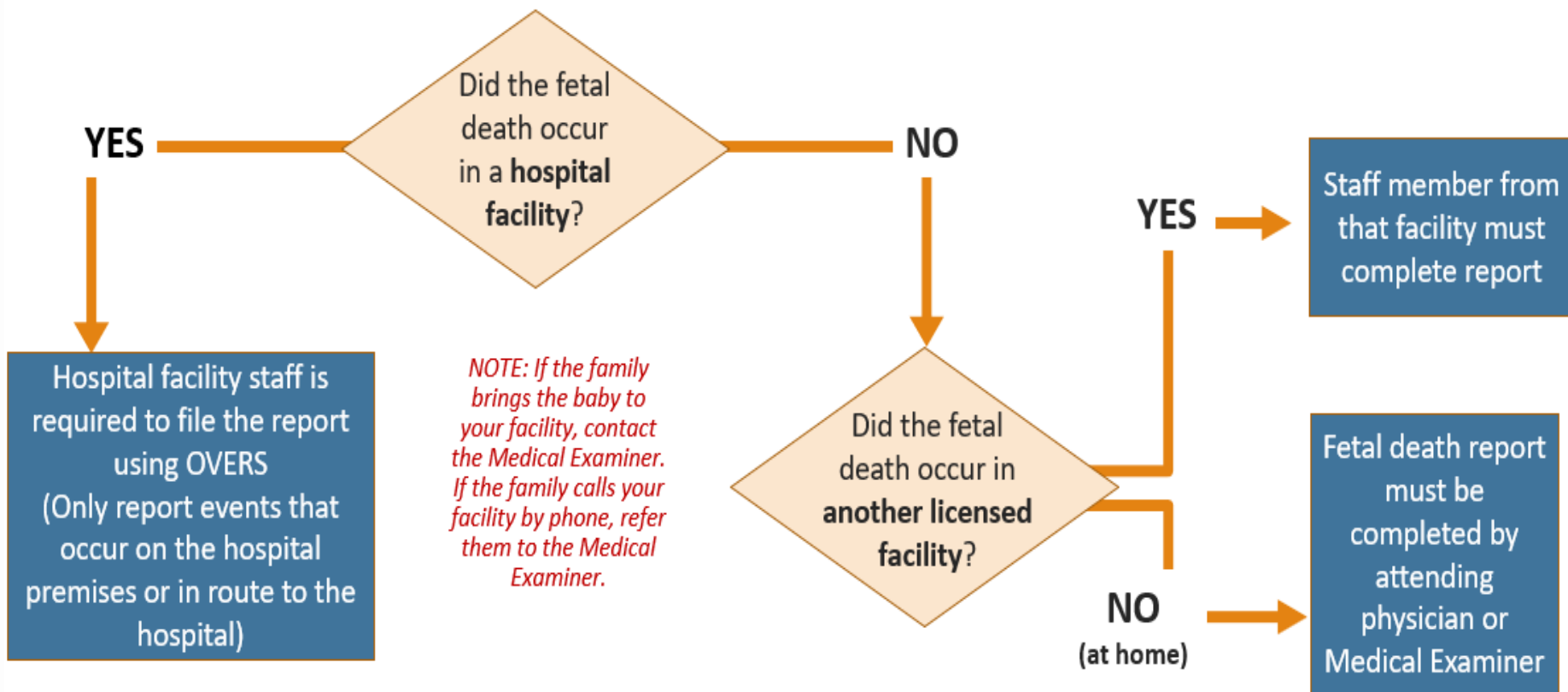


Reporting Requirements – Who is responsible for reporting?

- When a fetal death occurs in a hospital facility or other licensed facility, the hospital or facility staff is required to complete the report in OVERS.
- If the fetus is delivered outside a licensed facility, (at home for example), the fetal death report must be completed by the attending physician or a medical examiner.

*NOTE: If the family brings the fetus to your facility, contact the Medical Examiner.
If the family calls your facility by phone, refer them to the Medical Examiner.*

Who is responsible for reporting?



Collecting Report Details

- Parent Worksheet: Mother's prenatal care
- Facility Worksheet: Medical and health information

Parent Worksheet: Includes sections for Fetus Name, Method of Disposition (Parents' selection), Mother's Health (Cigarettes, WIC food, Weight), Pregnancy Factors (Diabetes, Hypertension, etc.), Delivery (Method, Route, etc.), Fetal Attributes (Weight, Gestation), and Causes/Conditions Contributing to Fetal Death (Maternal conditions, complications, etc.).

Facility Worksheet: Includes sections for Fetus Name, Date and Time of Delivery, Method of Disposition (Facility selection), Prenatal History (Previous births, etc.), Maternal Morbidity (Ruptured uterus, etc.), Delivery (Method, Route, etc.), Fetal Attributes (Weight, Gestation), and Causes/Conditions Contributing to Fetal Death (Fetal anomalies, infections, etc.).



Legal Definition of Live Birth

ORS 432.005 (21)

“Live birth” means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, that, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.





How is live birth determined?

A medical determination must be made whether a delivery is a fetal death or a live birth.

Defined by law

– Live Birth

- Signs of life, even if alive for only seconds ORS 432.005 (21)
- Can be any gestational age



Key indicators of live birth

Baby is delivered with any of the following signs of life:

- a heart beat
- a breath
- umbilical cord pulsation
- voluntary movement

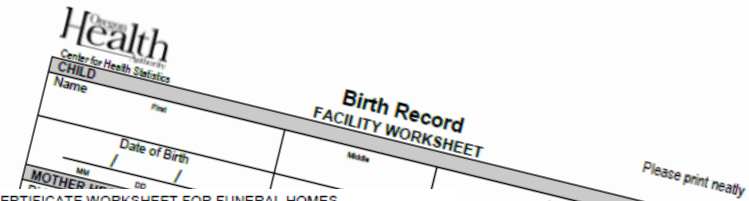
Live Birth with subsequent death

If an infant is born showing ANY signs of life, but then dies shortly after, this is a LIVE BIRTH.

- Any live birth **requires** a birth report that will be entered into OVERS. ORS 432.088
- If the baby dies, a death report is **required**.
 - A funeral home generally begins the death report
 - This is **not** a fetal death

Important:

After delivery, if the fetus showed any signs of life, **BOTH** a report of live birth and a report of death are required.



OREGON DEATH CERTIFICATE WORKSHEET FOR FUNERAL HOMES

Instructions: This worksheet is designed to be used as a supplemental tool when obtaining information from an informant or family member about the decedent. We recommend that both the informant and funeral director review the worksheet for completeness and sign and date it. If a typographical error occurs in marital status or name of spouse, having a signed worksheet can be used as evidence to support the correction of the record by the funeral director.

1. Decedent's full legal name – Legal name, not nicknames
 Prefix _____ First _____ Middle _____ Other Middle _____
 Last name prior to first marriage _____ Last _____ Suffix _____

AKA (full name) _____ (Only include if substantially different than legal name)

2 a-b. Date of death _____ (mo dd yyyy)
 Actual date of death Approximate date of death Court determined date of death
 Presumed date of death Found date of death

3 a-b. Time of death _____ AM PM Military
 Actual time of death Approximate time of death Court determined time of death
 Presumed time of death Unknown time of death Found time of death

4. County of death _____

5. Sex F M Undetermined Unknown X 6. SSN _____ None Unknown

7. Date of birth _____ (mo dd yyyy) 8 a-b. Age _____ years months days hours minutes

9. Birth place _____
 City or Town _____ State _____ Country _____

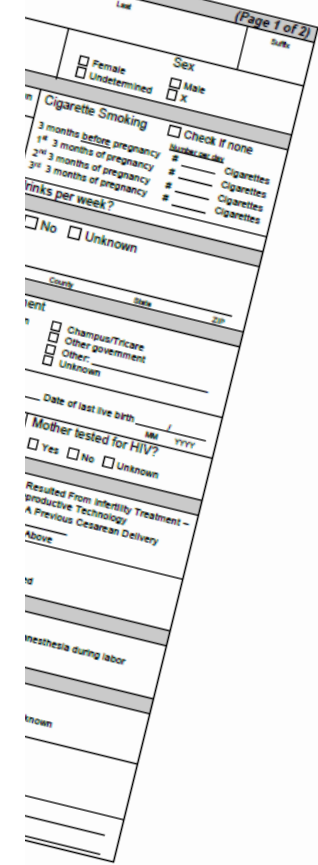
10. a-c. Served in U.S. Armed Forces? No Yes Unknown
 If cannot determine if the decedent served in the Armed Forces, select **unknown**. DO NOT leave this blank.
 If the decedent served in the U.S. Armed Forces, did the decedent serve in a Combat Zone? No Yes.
 If "Yes", add the Location of Combat Zone: _____

The informant may select the **Combat Zone Location(s)** that apply from the list at the end of this document or they may provide other location(s). We will accept any location(s) provided.
 If this is an electronic death record, you must use a semi-colon in the electronic system (";") between locations, if more than one location is listed.
 See attached list at the end of this worksheet for a list of **Combat Zone Locations**

11. Decedent's resident address

 Street Number, Name, Apt # _____ City or Town _____

 County _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip Code + 4 _____





Review Questions

1. A baby takes a few breaths after birth and then dies. Is this a fetal death? Why or why not?
2. When is a fetal death report required to be filed?
3. What are some of the signs of life used to determine if a fetal death has occurred?
4. A fetus was delivered at 18 weeks with no signs of life and weighs 320 grams. Is a fetal death report required?



Worksheets on our Website

- [Fetal Death Parent & Facility Worksheets](#)
- [Birth Parent & Facility Worksheets](#)



Transporting Fetal Remains – What is needed?

- Before the fetal remains can be removed from the facility where the delivery occurred, the facility must complete a fetal death disposition permit and give it to the funeral director or parents when they take the remains. **This is required even if a fetal report is *not* filed.**
- The disposition permit gives permission to transport remains to the location of burial or cremation.



Transporting Fetal Remains

Fetal Death Disposition and Transit Permit

- Used **only** for a fetal death
- Disposition permit can be completed by birth information specialist
- Auto-populated form in OVERS if a report is filed.
- Print blank form if no report is filed.
- Not required if fetal remains are disposed of at the delivery facility
 - **Fetal remains must be treated as medical waste.**

Transporting Fetal Remains

Fetal Death Disposition and Transit Permit 45- 3D

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY
CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

I.D. Tag Number		FETAL DEATH DISPOSITION AND TRANSIT PERMIT		State File Number	
1. Name of Fetus — Optional (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)		2. Time of Delivery		3. Sex	4. Date of Delivery
5a.		5b. City, Town, or Location		5c. Zip Code	5d. County of Delivery
6a. Current Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)				6b. Date of Birth	
6c. Name Prior to First Marriage (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)				6d. Birthplace	
6e. Residence — State		6f. County		6g. City, Town	
6h. Street and Number			6i. Zip Code	6j. Inside City Limits	
7a. Current Legal Name (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)			7b. Date of Birth	7c. Birthplace	
8a. Date Report Completed		8b. Name and Title of Person Completing Report			
9. Name and Title of Attendant					
10. If Services: Funeral Home Name and Address					
11a. Date Filed by Registrar			11b. Registrar — Signature		<i>Electronically Signed</i>
12. Amendment					

45-3D (04/18)

Was fetal death report filed by hospital? No Yes

If this fetus is going to be removed from the facility where delivery occurred, this permit must accompany the remains to the funeral home and/or the cemetery/crematorium. A burial/cremation tag is also required if the fetus is removed from the facility of delivery. This form, when signed by the funeral service licensee or person acting as such, shall serve as a disposal-transit permit for these fetal remains.

INSTRUCTIONS: THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PLACE OF FINAL DISPOSITION SHALL DATE AND SIGN BOTH COPIES OF THIS FINAL DISPOSITION AUTHORIZATION. FORWARD THE FIRST COPY TO THE REGISTRAR OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE DEATH OCCURRED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF FINAL DISPOSITION. THE SECOND COPY WILL BE RETAINED BY THE CEMETERY OR CREMATORY.

DATE OF DISPOSITION: _____

SEXTON'S SIGNATURE:  _____

PLACE OF DISPOSITION: _____



Live Birth vs. Fetal Death Reporting Summary

	Live Birth with Subsequent Death	Fetal Death
Records Required	1) Report of Live Birth in every case, regardless of birth weight, gestation, or length of life 2) Death record in every case	1) Report of Fetal Death only if delivery weight is 350 grams or more, or if weight is unknown and is 20 weeks gestation or more 2) Optional Commemorative Certificate if family wants one; a fetal death report is required.
Disposition	1) Authorization for Disposition must have a doctor's approval 2) Baby always leaves the hospital	1) Authorization for Fetal Disposition completed by birth information specialist 2) Disposal of fetal remains by hospital possible



Review Questions

1. A fetus is being removed from the delivery facility. No fetal death report is filed. Is a Fetal Death Disposition Permit required?
2. Who can complete the Fetal Death Disposition Permit?
3. How are fetal remains disposed of if parents decide to leave the fetal remains at the hospital?
4. A baby was born and then dies after taking several breaths. Should a Fetal Death Disposition and Transit Permit be given to the parents?



Q & A



Thank you!