

# Senate Bill 850 and Domicile Unknown Reporting: Medical Examiners

The passing of [Senate Bill 850](#) established mandatory reporting of housing status on reports of death. Beginning January 1, 2022, reports of death were required to list the residence address as “**Domicile Unknown**” for decedents who were homeless at the time of death.

Enter “**Domicile Unknown**” in the Street Name field on the Resident Address page in OVERS. This includes decedents who were homeless but receiving care at a hospital or other institution.

While there are several terms used to describe a homeless individual including houseless, unhoused and people without housing, the phrase used in Senate Bill 850 is “a decedent who was homeless.”

A homeless individual is defined as:

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

Click [here](#) for the U.S. Code for the complete general definition of a homeless individual that includes additional examples.

If the Medical Examiner will be entering the personal information on the death report, they first select **Yes** from the **Will Medical Examiner be completing personal information?** drop down menu on the Decedent page in OVERS. A pop-up window will appear where they will click **OK** to take ownership of the case.




Will Medical Examiner be completing personal information?

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The Case you have selected is an un-owned case. Press OK to become the owner of this case.

The Medical Examiner will now have access to enter information on the Resident Address page in OVERS. For homeless individuals enter “**Domicile Unknown**” in the **Street Name, Rural Route, etc.** field for individuals who were homeless at the time of the death.

Death Registration Menu		7324794 :Monday Test AUG-01-2023				
Personal Information		/New Event/New Event/Not Registered/Unsigned/Uncertified/NA/24-Hour Notice				
Decedent		<b>Resident Address</b>				
Resident Address		If decedent was homeless at time of death, please enter Domicile Unknown in the street name field.				
Family Members	Street Number	Pre Directional	Street Name, Rural Route, etc.	Street Designator	Post Directional	Apt #, Suite #, etc.
Informant	Unknown	▼	Domicile Unknown	▼	▼	
Disposition	City or Town	County	State	Country	Zip Code	
Decedent Attributes	Portland	Multnomah	Oregon	United States	97213	
Medical Certification	Inside City Limits					
Pronouncement	Unknown					
Place of Death	Unknown					

-  If decedent was homeless at time of death, please enter “Domicile Unknown” in the street name field.
-  “Unknown” can be entered into these fields. However, **if the user or informant knows the city where the decedent generally spent most of their time, please enter it.**
-  **Do not leave these fields blank** or enter “Unknown.” If the Zip Code is unknown, enter “99999.”

Other fields on the **Resident Address** page should be filled out to the best of the user or informant’s knowledge.

“Unknown” can be entered in the **Street Number, City or Town, and Inside City Limits** fields. “Unknown” **cannot** be entered in the **County, State, Country or Zip Code** fields. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THESE FIELDS BLANK.** If the Zip Code is truly unknown, enter 99999.

**Do NOT** enter “Unknown,” “Homeless,” “Houseless” or “None” in the “Street Name, Rural Route, etc.” field for homeless decedents.

**Do Not** enter approximate locations of where a person was camping like “the corner of Halsey and 72nd streets.” Only enter “**Domicile Unknown.**”

For questions about registering death records for decedents who were homeless at the time of death, email [CHS.Registration@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:CHS.Registration@oha.oregon.gov).