

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
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S. B. No. 278

Senators Jones, Tavares

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A B I L L

To amend section 313.121 of the Revised Code to 1
require the completion of a sudden unexplained 2
infant death investigation reporting form (SUIDI 3
reporting form) developed by the United States 4
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or an 5
alternative reporting form developed by the 6
Director of Health, whenever a child one year of 7
age or younger dies suddenly when in apparent good 8
health and to require that the appropriate child 9
fatality review board receive a copy of each 10
completed form. 11

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 313.121 of the Revised Code be 12
amended to read as follows: 13

Sec. 313.121. (A) As used in this section, "parent" means 14
either parent, except that if one parent has been designated the 15
residential parent and legal custodian of the child, "parent" 16
means the designated residential parent and legal custodian, and 17
if a person other than a parent is the child's legal guardian, 18
"parent" means the legal guardian. 19

(B) If a child under two years of age dies suddenly when in 20

apparent good health, the death shall be reported immediately to 21
the coroner of the county in which the death occurred, as required 22
by section 313.12 of the Revised Code. Except as provided in 23
division (C) of this section, the coroner or deputy coroner shall 24
perform an autopsy on the child. The autopsy shall be performed in 25
accordance with rules adopted by the director of health under 26
section 313.122 of the Revised Code. The coroner or deputy coroner 27
may perform research procedures and tests when performing the 28
autopsy. 29

If the child was one year of age or younger at the time of 30
death, the coroner, deputy coroner, or other individual who has 31
been designated to investigate the child's death shall complete a 32
sudden unexplained infant death investigation reporting form 33
(SUIDI reporting form) or an alternative reporting form. The 34
director of health may develop an alternative reporting form in 35
consultation with the Ohio state coroners association. The 36
individual who completes the reporting form shall retain the form 37
and send a copy of it to the appropriate child fatality review 38
board or regional child fatality review board established under 39
section 307.621 of the Revised Code. If a coroner or deputy 40
coroner completes the reporting form, a copy of the coroner's 41
report described in section 313.09 of the Revised Code shall also 42
be sent to the board. 43

A completed reporting form and copies of completed reporting 44
forms are not public records under section 149.43 of the Revised 45
Code. 46

(C) A coroner or deputy coroner is not required to perform an 47
autopsy if the coroner of the county in which the death occurred 48
or a court with jurisdiction over the deceased body determines 49
under section 313.131 of the Revised Code that an autopsy is 50
contrary to the religious beliefs of the child. If the coroner or 51
the court makes such a determination, the coroner shall notify the 52

health district or department of health with jurisdiction in the 53
area in which the child's parent resides. For purposes of this 54
division, the religious beliefs of the parents of a child shall be 55
considered to be the religious beliefs of the child. 56

(D) If the child's parent makes a written or verbal request 57
for the preliminary results of the autopsy after the results are 58
available, the coroner, or a person designated by the coroner, 59
shall give the parent an oral statement of the preliminary 60
results. 61

The coroner, within a reasonable time after the final results 62
of the autopsy are reported, shall send written notice of the 63
results to the state department of health, the health district or 64
department with jurisdiction in the area in which the child's 65
parent resides, and, upon the request of a parent of the child, to 66
the child's attending physician. Upon the written request of a 67
parent of the child and the payment of the transcript fee required 68
by section 313.10 of the Revised Code, the coroner shall send 69
written notice of the final results to that parent. The notice 70
sent to the state department of health shall include all of the 71
information specified in rules adopted under section 313.122 of 72
the Revised Code. 73

(E) On the occurrence of any of the following, the health 74
district or department with jurisdiction in the area in which the 75
child's parent resides shall offer the parent any ~~counseling or~~ 76
~~other~~ supportive services it has available: 77

(1) When it learns through any source that an autopsy is 78
being performed on a child under two years of age who died 79
suddenly when in apparent good health; 80

(2) When it receives notice that the final result of an 81
autopsy performed pursuant to this section concluded that the 82
child died of sudden infant death syndrome; 83

(3) When it is notified by the coroner that, pursuant to 84
division (C) of this section, an autopsy was not performed. 85

(F) When a health district or department receives notice that 86
the final result of an autopsy performed pursuant to this section 87
concluded that the child died of sudden infant death syndrome or 88
that, pursuant to division (C) of this section, an autopsy was not 89
performed but sudden infant death syndrome may have been the cause 90
of death, it shall offer the child's parent information about 91
sudden infant death syndrome. The state department of health shall 92
ensure that current information on sudden infant death syndrome is 93
available for distribution by health districts and departments. 94

Section 2. That existing section 323.121 of the Revised Code 95
is hereby repealed. 96