

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 862 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/17/25 S4/8/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1734

By: Representative Childress

By: Senator K. Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
CERTIFICATES; TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND
PRONOUNCE DEATH OF A PATIENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
CERTIFICATES; AND TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL
PROFESSIONALS WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND PRONOUNCE DEATH
OF A PATIENT.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-18-601(c)(3), concerning the signature for a medical certification of death and the pronouncement of death, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) A registered nurse employed by the attending hospice may complete and sign the medical certification of death and pronounce death for a patient who is terminally ill, whose death is anticipated, who is receiving services from a hospice program certified under § 20-7-117, and who dies in a hospice inpatient program or as a hospice patient in a nursing home or hospital.

(B) An advanced practice registered nurse may complete and sign the medical certificate of death and pronounce death of a patient in a hospital setting if the advanced practice registered nurse is given authority by the medical staff of the hospital and a physician other than an emergency



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department physician is not immediately available.

/s/Childress

APPROVED: 4/17/25