

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

**CHAPTER 1200-15-03  
INVESTIGATIONS OF SUDDEN, UNEXPLAINED INFANT  
AND CHILD DEATHS**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1200-15-03-.01	Purpose	1200-15-03-.04	Reimbursement of County Governments
1200-15-03-.02	Definitions		
1200-15-03-.03	Standards for Investigations		

**1200-15-03-.01 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish minimum standards for conducting and completing an investigation, including an autopsy if deemed necessary, into sudden, unexplained infant and child deaths.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 68-1-1101, 68-1-1102, and 68-1-1103. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 11, 2010; effective October 29, 2010; however on October 28, 2010 the Department of Health withdrew the rules. Original rule filed January 24, 2012; effective June 30, 2012.

**1200-15-03-.02 DEFINITIONS.**

For purposes of this chapter,

- (1) "Autopsy" means the post mortem examination of a deceased infant or child by a licensed pathologist to determine cause of death.
- (2) "Child" means a person who is at least one year of age and has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday.
- (3) "Department" means the Tennessee Department of Health.
- (4) "Infant" means a baby who was born alive and has not reached his or her first birthday.
- (5) "Sudden, unexplained infant or child death" means the unexpected death of an infant or a child with no known or apparent cause.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 68-1-1101, 68-1-1102, and 68-1-1103. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 11, 2010; effective October 29, 2010; however on October 28, 2010 the Department of Health withdrew the rules. Original rule filed January 24, 2012; effective June 30, 2012.

**1200-15-03-.03 STANDARDS FOR INVESTIGATIONS.**

- (1) The standards for conducting and completing an investigation, including performance of an autopsy, into a sudden, unexplained infant death shall include the standards applicable to infants found in T.C.A. § 68-1-1102, and the standards authorized or required by Tennessee Code Annotated Title 38, Chapter 7. The same standards shall apply to sudden, unexplained child death.
- (2) In addition to the standards found in T.C.A. § 68-1-1102 and Title 38, Chapter 7, the standards for conducting and completing an investigation, including performance of an autopsy, into a sudden, unexplained infant or child death shall be those found in the most

(Rule 1200-15-03-.03, continued)

current version of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's publication, "Sudden, Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form," for infants, and the Department's "Sudden, Unexplained Child Death Investigation Reporting Form," for children. The Department shall provide access to these publications upon request. The pathologist performing the autopsy shall complete the appropriate form.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 68-1-1101, 68-1-1102, 68-1-1103, and 68-3-502. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 11, 2010; effective October 29, 2010; however on October 28, 2010 the Department of Health withdrew the rules. Original rule filed January 24, 2012; effective June 30, 2012.

#### **1200-15-03-.04 REIMBURSEMENT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.**

The Department shall reimburse county governments for the cost of each autopsy performed for an investigation into a sudden, unexplained infant or child death that is carried out in accordance with the investigation standards in this chapter. The Department shall reimburse up to the maximum allowable of \$1,250.00 per autopsy, including travel costs. The Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration's Comprehensive Travel Regulations shall govern the reimbursement rate for travel costs.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 68-1-1101, 68-1-1102, and 68-1-1103. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed May 11, 2010; effective October 29, 2010; however on October 28, 2010 the Department of Health withdrew the rules. Original rule filed January 24, 2012; effective June 30, 2012.