



**Patrol
Operations**

Number: 07-13-01

Subject: Notification of Next of Kin

Effective Date: January 1, 1989

Revision Date: August 10, 2022

Review Date:

I. Purpose

To establish a policy regarding procedures for notifying next of kin of deceased, seriously injured, or seriously ill persons.

II. Policy

The Office of County Attorney in the State of Nebraska shall perform all duties enjoined by law, and shall be the ex officio county coroner, in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-1210.

- A. Sworn officers of the Nebraska State Patrol may be called upon in their course of duties, by local county attorneys and physicians to notify the next of kin of seriously ill, seriously injured, or deceased persons.
- B. Sworn officers will quickly and compassionately notify the nearest relative of victims who are seriously ill, seriously injured or who have died within their patrol area, when requested to perform such a task by either the county attorney or attending physician.
- C. The following procedure shall be utilized:
 - 1. Every effort should be made to locate and notify the nearest relative as soon as possible.
 - 2. If possible, two officers will be present during the notification. If the next of kin is alone, a close friend or neighbor should be sought to stay with that person.
 - 3. A direct approach and extreme tact should be exercised by the officer.
 - 4. If known, the clergy representative of the next of kin should be notified.
 - 5. A State Patrol or other law enforcement Chaplain may be called upon to assist in the notification.

- D. In the case of a deceased being from another State, the investigating officer should make every effort to contact a local, county, or state law enforcement agency to make the local notification of the next of kin, rather than a telephone notification.
- E. If the Nebraska State Patrol receives a request from an allied agency, either from the State of Nebraska or an out-of-state agency, the Nebraska State Patrol shall make every effort to assist the outside agency in the notification.