



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Final Analysis

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Sub. S.B. 278

130th General Assembly
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

Sens. Jones and Tavares, Bacon, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Coley, Eklund, Faber, Gentile, Hite, Hughes, Jordan, LaRose, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Skindell, Smith, Turner, Uecker, Widener

Reps. Antonio, Barnes, Bishoff, Brown, Carney, R. Hagan, Hottinger, Johnson, Sprague, Anielski, Baker, Barborak, Beck, Blessing, Boyce, Burkley, Celebrezze, Conditt, Damschroder, Driehaus, Fedor, Gerberry, Green, Grossman, Hackett, C. Hagan, Hall, Henne, Hill, Landis, Lynch, Milkovich, O'Brien, Patterson, Pelanda, Phillips, Pillich, Redfern, Rogers, Schuring, Sears, Sheehy, Slaby, Smith, Stinziano, Strahorn, Terhar, Wachtmann

Effective date: September 17, 2014

ACT SUMMARY

- Requires coroners, deputy coroners, or any other individuals who have been designated to investigate the sudden, unexpected death of a child one year of age or younger to complete a "Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form" (SUIDI reporting form) or an alternative form that the Director of Health may develop.
- Requires the person who completes the SUIDI or alternative reporting form to retain it and send a copy to the appropriate child fatality review board or regional child fatality board.
- Specifies that a completed reporting form and its copies are not public records.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form

Form completion

The act requires a coroner, deputy coroner, or any other individual who has been designated to investigate the sudden, unexplained death of a child one year of age or younger, the cause of which is not immediately obvious prior to investigation, to complete a Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDI reporting form) developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or an alternative reporting form. The alternative form may be developed by the Director of Health in consultation with the Ohio State Coroners Association.¹ The act replaces law enacted by S.B. 198 of the 130th General Assembly (effective May 20, 2014) that encouraged the persons specified above to complete a CDC-developed SUIDI reporting form under the same circumstances.²

Child fatality review boards

Under prior law, if a person completed a SUIDI form, a copy of the form had to be sent to the Director of Health and used for the purpose of collecting data to prevent future unexplained infant deaths. The act eliminates this requirement and, instead, requires the person who completes the SUIDI or alternative reporting form to retain it and send a copy to the appropriate child fatality review board or regional child fatality review board.

The act also requires that, if a coroner or deputy coroner completes the reporting form, a copy of the coroner's report be sent to the appropriate child fatality review board or regional child fatality review board.³ Continuing law requires a coroner to keep a complete record of each case of death under the coroner's jurisdiction. The record must include the decedent's name (if known), place where the body was found, date of death, cause of death, and all other available information.⁴

Under law unchanged by the act, the purpose of a child fatality review board is to decrease the incidence of preventable child deaths by doing all of the following: (1) promoting cooperation, collaboration, and communication between all groups,

¹ R.C. 313.121(B).

² R.C. 313.121(B), as amended by S.B. 198 of the 130th General Assembly.

³ R.C. 313.121(B).

⁴ R.C. 313.09, not in the act.



professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children, (2) maintaining a comprehensive database of all child deaths that occur in the county or region served by the child fatality review board in order to develop an understanding of the causes and incidence of those deaths, (3) recommending and developing plans for implementing local service and program changes and changes to the groups, professions, agencies, or entities that serve families and children that might prevent child deaths, and (4) advising the Department of Health of aggregate data, trends, and patterns concerning child deaths.⁵

Exemption from public records law

The act specifies that a completed reporting form and copies of completed reporting forms are not public records under Ohio's Public Records Law (R.C. 149.43).⁶

Background – form availability

The current version of the SUIDI reporting form is eight pages in length. It is available through the CDC's website⁷ or may be accessed directly at the following address: <<http://www.cdc.gov/sids/pdf/suidi-form2-1-2010.pdf>>.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-12-14
Reported, S. Medicaid, Health & Human Services	04-02-14
Passed Senate (32-0)	04-02-14
Reported, H. Health & Aging	05-21-14
Passed House (95-0)	06-04-14

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⁵ R.C. 307.623, not in the act.

⁶ R.C. 313.121(B).

⁷ CDC, *Download the Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation Reporting Form (SUIDIRF)* (last visited October 8, 2014), available at <<http://www.cdc.gov/sids/suidrfdownload.htm>>.

