

Standard Operating Guideline: EMS6	
Subject:	Handling of DOA Patients
Effective Date:	November, 2012
Revision Date:	March 1, 2023
Director:	<p>DocuSigned by:  03F99B735E13429...</p>
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PURPOSE: Franklin County Public Safety is committed to assure that once clinical death is established that the remains be treated with dignity and comfort/compassion shall be given to the family.

POLICY: Upon arrival of Emergency Medical Service personnel (EMS):

1. Determine if the scene is safe.
2. Determine if clinical death has occurred per Western Virginia Emergency Medical Service (WVEMS) guideline.
3. Contact the communications center on the non-emergency phone or via county radio. Advise the communications center of the DOA and request that law enforcement personnel respond unless the death is in a health care facility and no evidence of foul play exists.
4. Do not disturb the scene.
5. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the area and keep EMS personnel to a minimum number necessary to handle the call safely.
6. Wait for law enforcement to arrive.
7. Document all information pertaining to the call in the patient care report.
8. Before leaving, speak with a family member to determine if any further assistance is needed or answer any questions that they may ask to the best of your ability.
9. Consider calling the Franklin County Department of Public Safety Chaplain Services as needed if not already dispatched.
10. At times, there may be a special circumstance to transport a DOA (large body, resuscitation stopped in medic unit, etc.) Contact and coordinate with the SMT anytime a special circumstance or request exists.