



**Department of Justice and Public Safety**  
**Adult Custody Services**

Policy: **Death in Custody D26**  
Effective: March 2001  
Revised: December 2022

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

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Adult Custody Services is committed to providing professional practices that respect human rights and ensure safety for all. To be successful we will deliver fair practices, incorporate transparent policies and procedures, ensure independent quality assurance processes, and provide program access that allows for educational, cultural, traditional, and faith-based services as well as mental wellness and community re-entry assistance.

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**PURPOSE**

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To establish procedural standards for a death in custody.

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**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

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[NB Corrections Act](#)

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**SCOPE**

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This policy applies to all employees of the Adult Custody Services division of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

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**POLICY GUIDELINES**

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A staff member finding a client unconscious or not breathing shall consider the client alive and in need of help. Staff shall make all reasonable efforts to provide medical assistance until such time as medical personnel declare the client deceased, or the assistance is no longer required.

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**PROCEDURE**

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The following action will be taken prior to and following the pronouncement of death of a client:

**Provide medical assistance until relieved**

The staff member finding a client who has stopped breathing is to immediately attempt to revive the client and is to continue with such until they are relieved by an ambulance attendant, a rescue squad, medical professional or advised by a physician to cease assistance.

**Advise Sergeant**

Contact the Sergeant and advise details of the emergency

**Do not move client**

Do not move the client unless it is necessary to provide medical assistance or prevent further injury. Evidence at the scene is to remain untouched until authorities have assessed relevance.

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**Contact 911 and medical services**

Sergeant will immediately contact 911 and the institutional nurse.

**Client movement**

If the client is housed in a shared cell, remove the second occupant, and place him in a secure area for future questioning. Should the client be housed in a dormitory setting, remove those clients to a secure setting. Record immediately the names of all witnesses/potential witness to the situation.

Note: Sergeant may call additional staff for duty.

**Contact Superintendent**

The Sergeant will contact the Superintendent as soon as possible and maintain frequent contact regarding the incident as it unfolds

**Calls to officials**

The Superintendent will contact:

- Coroner (Coroners Act)
- Director of Adult Custody Services – if unable to contact, Superintendent will call
- Deputy Minister – if unable to contact, Superintendent will call
- The Minister of Public Safety

**Notify Police**

Superintendent will contact the local law enforcement agency. Should it be necessary for follow up investigation, copies of logbooks may be turned over to the police without making further entries. Any information required from the logbook is to be photocopied before turning it over.

**Issue new logbooks**

Sergeant will issue new logbooks

**Notification Next of Kin**

The Superintendent, with the help of the police, clergy, or another appropriate individual in the client's home community shall notify the clients next of kin.

**Incident Report**

All staff involved in the situation are to prepare reports before the end of the working day outlining details of the event making note of the name of the deceased, witnesses to the incident, and surrounding circumstances of death

**Medical and Psychological support**

Medical and psychological support shall be provided to both staff and clients who require it due to the incident.

**Superintendent report**

Superintendent is to prepare reports, as per normal protocols.

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**RELATED POLICY**

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D20 Emergencies  
G1 Health assessment  
G2 Alcohol Withdrawal  
G3 Drug Withdrawal



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***Adult Custody Services***

G15 The ill Client  
G26 First Aid  
G28 Suicide/Suicide Prevention  
G29 Psychiatric Assessment  
G45 AED Defibrillation  
Adult Institutional Policy Manual N.B.