

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1734

5 By: Representative Childress
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
9 CERTIFICATES; TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
10 WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND
11 PRONOUNCE DEATH OF A PATIENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING DEATH
16 CERTIFICATES; AND TO CLARIFY THE MEDICAL
17 PROFESSIONALS WHO MAY SIGN A MEDICAL
18 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH AND PRONOUNCE DEATH
19 OF A PATIENT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-18-601(c)(3), concerning the signature
25 for a medical certification of death and the pronouncement of death, is
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (3)(A) A registered nurse employed by the attending hospice may
28 complete and sign the medical certification of death and pronounce death for
29 a patient who is terminally ill, whose death is anticipated, who is receiving
30 services from a hospice program certified under § 20-7-117, and who dies in a
31 hospice inpatient program or as a hospice patient in a nursing home or
32 hospital.

33 (B) Except as provided under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this
34 section and subdivision (c)(4) of this section, a registered nurse shall not
35 complete and sign the medical certification of death or pronounce death for a
36 patient.



1 (C) An advanced practice registered nurse may complete and
2 sign the medical certificate of death and pronounce death of a patient in a
3 hospital setting if the advanced practice registered nurse is given authority
4 by the medical director of the hospital.
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