

January 28, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner licensed in the state of Kansas. I practice in Wyandotte County and serve patients from several surrounding counties. Two of my patients own a funeral home in Tonganoxie, Kansas in Leavenworth County; Brian and Jessica Quisenberry of Quisenberry Funeral Home.

The Quisenberrys stated that they have experienced delays in having a physician sign death certificates. Not having the signed death certificate prevents the funeral home from allowing grieving families from holding funeral services if they want a cremation. This places undue hardship on families already experiencing loss, by prolonging the ability to have a service with their loved one's remains.

Without the death certificate, families are unable to move forward with settling the financial affairs and estate of the deceased. Delays in having the death certificate signed place additional emotional and financial burden on already grieving families.

The Quisenberry family funeral home supports the update to HB 2358 allowing advanced practice registered nurses and other providers the authority to sign death certificates in the state of Kansas.

Speaking from personal experience as the daughter of a man who died from Covid in an ICU during the pandemic. Our family had to wait nearly 4 weeks for the death certificate to be signed. Due to the strain of the healthcare system I was understanding of the delay during the pandemic. I am however, disheartened to hear there continue to be delays obtaining signatures. I hope to be able to expedite this process for grieving families as an APRN able to sign the death certificate in the near future.

Thank you for your time,  
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