



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 27, 2005

TO: County Coroners, Sheriff Coroners, & Medical Examiners
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Coordinators
Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Directors and Coordinators

SUBJECT: Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Protocols

We are pleased to present you with copies of two new protocols related to the identification of SIDS deaths. Both protocols will be implemented January 1, 2006.

The first is a new *Death Scene and Deputy Coroner Investigation Protocol*. This combines the original California Protocol and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Protocol. It was developed to collect more specific information surrounding the infant's death to aid pathologists in determining a cause of death.

The second is a revision to the *International Standardized Autopsy Protocol*. We have attempted to improve the format and make it easier to complete. It is used during an autopsy to assist coroners, pathologists and medical examiners to determine the cause of infant death that is sudden and unexpected.

Both protocols were developed for ease of completion and data collection and entry. They can be completed electronically or manually. Previously, we were unable to share data with reporting counties. The format of these new protocols will assist us in this regard.

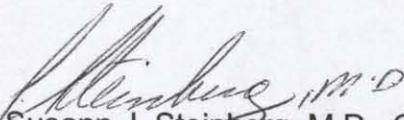
As you know, the mandate to do an autopsy in all sudden, unexpected infant deaths has been suspended for the last two fiscal years due to State budget constraints. Nevertheless, we are grateful for your continued completion of the *SIDS Death Scene and Deputy Coroner Investigation and Autopsy Protocols* as they assist us to maintain data regarding the circumstances in sudden, unexplained infant deaths.

We look forward to continuing to work together in the New Year.

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If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Florez, Research Specialist, in the Epidemiology and Evaluation Section. She can be reached by phone at (916) 650-0323 or email at cflroez@dhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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