



REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM PROCEDURE	Title: Death Notification – BLS/ALS
	Section: Cardiac Management
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 1, 2022

DEATH NOTIFICATION – BLS/ALS

The GRIEV_ING Method for Death Notification by EMS

G - Gather	Gather the family, ensure that all members are present.
R - Resources	Call for support resources available to assist the family members with their grief which may include spiritual leaders, family, or friends.
I – Identify	Identify yourself, identify the deceased patient by name, and identify/ask the family their understanding of the events that have occurred.
E - Educate	Briefly educate the family about the events that have occurred in the resuscitation, educate them about the current state of their loved one.
V - Verify	Verify that their family member has died. Be clear! Use the words “dead” or “died”.
_ - Space	Give the family personal space and time for an emotional moment; allow the family time to absorb the information.
I – Inquire	Ask if there are any questions and answer them all.
N - Nuts and Bolts	Inform family about next steps including law enforcement (Chicago Police Department) reporting and notification to the Medical Examiner. Cases requiring Medical Examiner investigation will be transported to that location (by a contracted agency) and all other cases will remain on location for transportation to the funeral home selected by the family. Offer the family opportunity to view the body. Resuscitation equipment should remain in place (do not remove airway, IV or IO).
G - Give	Give them information on City of Chicago resources and refer to the Chicago Police Department officer on scene for additional information.

The GRIEV_ING Death Notification method has been adapted for prehospital use with the permission of C. Hobgood, MD.