

Office of the Chief Coroner
Ontario Forensic Pathology Service

Bureau du coroner en chef
Service de médecine légale de l'Ontario



Forensic Services and
Coroners Complex
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto ON M3M 0B1

Complexe des sciences judiciaires
et du coroner
25, Avenue Morton Shulman
Toronto ON M3M 0B1

Telephone: (416) 314-4000
Facsimile: (416) 314-4030

Téléphone: (416) 314-4040
Télécopieur: (416) 314-4060

July 9, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Chiefs of Municipal Police Departments in Ontario
Commissioner of Ontario Provincial Police

FROM: Dr. Dirk Huyer, Chief Coroner for Ontario
Dr. James Sproule, Deputy Chief Coroner for Ontario

RE: Electronic Police Reports

The Ontario Public Service (OPS) is adopting new digital practices and technologies to deliver simpler, faster, and better services to Ontarians. The Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC), Justice Technology Services (JTS), and Ontario's police services have been doing their part to contribute to this initiative by developing a timely, digital exchange of Sudden Death Police Reports and Coroner Investigation Reports.

The digital transmission of these reports optimizes the strength of our IT and security systems while eliminating costs incurred by mailing, printing, faxing and storing paper reports. Digital file management will result in fewer errors, less duplicative work, and better use of human resources. Reliable and more accurate information will be delivered in a consistent, timely, and secure manner.

This rapid exchange of documents significantly enhances both coroner and police investigations. Coroners will receive Sudden Death Police Reports much faster, and police will be able to request and receive comprehensive reports from the OCC, including coroner reports, post mortem reports, toxicology and other reports as a consolidated e-transfer.

Since 2018, the OCC and JTS have worked closely with Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) as a representative for the Niche records management system and with York Regional Police (YRP) as a representative for Versaterm records management system to develop, test and implement an effective digital solution. To date, 163 OPP detachments and another 44 Ontario police services have successfully implemented the new system. We want to complete the province-wide implementation of the digital exchange of sudden death reports this summer.

Development and testing are complete, and training materials are available for police agencies. No additional financial costs are anticipated at this time. JTS and the OCC will support and advise police during the deployment and implementation of the new digital system. We estimate one staff member would be required for one week to establish and launch the digital system for each police service. We are confident that this time will be offset by the efficiencies the process will create.

Our office will be reaching out directly to individual police agencies to arrange next steps and connect them with assigned staff from the OCC and JTS. If you require further information about the process outlined above, please contact D/Chief Coroner Sproule at James.Sproule@ontario.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DH'.

Dr. Dirk Huyer
Chief Coroner for Ontario

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Sproule'.

Dr. James Sproule
Deputy Chief Coroner for Ontario