



Inquest Reporting



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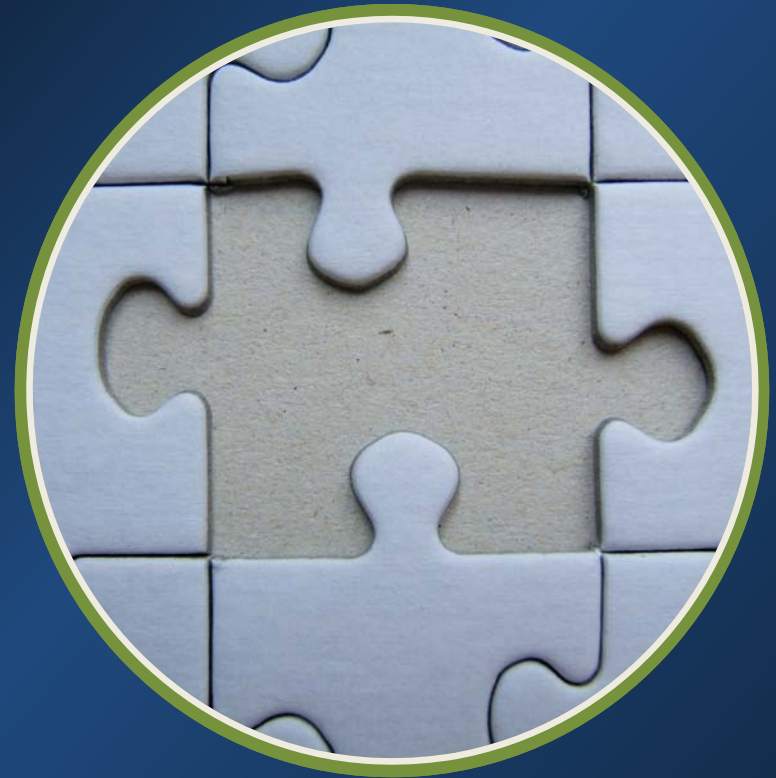
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Deaths Requiring an Inquest:

- 1. Person dies in prison (other than natural /execution) or jail
- 2. Person dies an unnatural death (other than execution)
- 3. Body or body part found, cause or circumstances of death unknown
- 4. Circumstances indicate that the death may have been caused unlawfully
- 5. Suicide or circumstances indicate possible suicide
- 6. Person dies without having been attended by physician
- 7. Person dies while attended, but physician cannot certify cause of death
- 8. Person is a child under six, and an inquest is required by Chapter 264, Family Code

What kinds of deaths require reporting?

- Person dies an unnatural death
 - Could be a traffic fatality or a drowning*
- Body or body part found, cause or circumstances of death unknown
 - Could be an unidentified person*
- Suicide or circumstances indicate possible suicide
 - Is there somewhere local that can track this?*
- Person is a child under six, and an inquest is required
 - Possible child abuse*



Can you think of other circumstances?



Have you seen an example of reporting helping in your community?

Why is reporting important?

- Accurate statewide data
- Injury and death prevention
- Public informed



Traffic Fatalities

Transportation Code Sec. 550.081



A monthly report **MUST** be submitted detailing all traffic fatalities

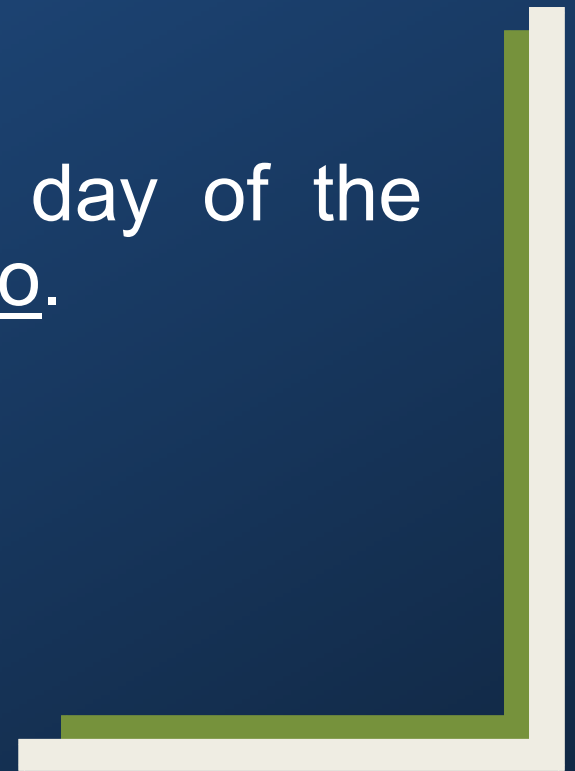
Must be submitted by the 11th day of the month – even if the number is zero.

Name of the deceased

Driver, passenger, or pedestrian?

Date

Location





**If testing was performed:
Name of the lab
Test Results**

Results are unavailable? Say so.
File a supplemental report 'as soon
as practicable' when the results are
available

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Hot Topics

**Want to send it
in the mail?**

*The trend is to
do as much via
technology as
possible*

Crash Records Bureau
Texas Department of
Transportation
P.O. Box 149349
Austin, TX 78714
Phone: (512) 424-7121
Fax: (512) 424-2507



Title 25 Part 1 Chp.103 §103.6, 103.2, & 103.4
Texas Administration Code

Injury Reporting

- Must be made within 90 days of the death
- Must be made through the Texas EMS & Trauma Registries

<https://injury.dshs.texas.gov/injury/login.do>

Traumatic Brain Injury

An acquired injury to the brain, including brain injuries caused by anoxia due to submersion incidents. This could be a physical blow or hit to the head that caused death or a suffocation that prevented enough oxygen going to the brain and causing death, like drowning.

Spinal Cord Injury

An acute, traumatic lesion of the neural elements in the spinal canal, resulting in any degree of sensory deficit, motor deficits, or bladder/bowel dysfunction. This generally means the person was paralyzed in some way from the injury that killed them.



Submersion Fatalities

The fatal or non-fatal process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid. This is basically drowning. There is a specific reporting form for this type of death.

An injury or wound to a living body caused by the application of an external force, including but not limited to violence, burns, poisonings, submersion incidents, traumatic brain injuries, traumatic spinal cord injuries, and suffocations.

“Trauma”

Other severely injured trauma patients whose injury meets the department's inclusion criteria based on the data dictionaries and admitted to a hospital inpatient setting for more than 48 hours, or died after receiving any evaluation or treatment, or was dead on arrival, or transferred into or out of a hospital

“Significant trauma injuries”



A case in which an injury is assumed, but a diagnosis is not yet made.



“Suspected case”





Family Code §264.514(b).

Child Abuse

If it is determined by you that the death was the result of abuse or neglect

you must immediately notify:

- an appropriate law enforcement agency,
and
- the appropriate county child fatality
review team of the child's death within
120 days of the death reported to you

Child Abuse



Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 49.04 (d)
Health & Safety Code §193.005(f).

Unidentified Person

Two places to report:

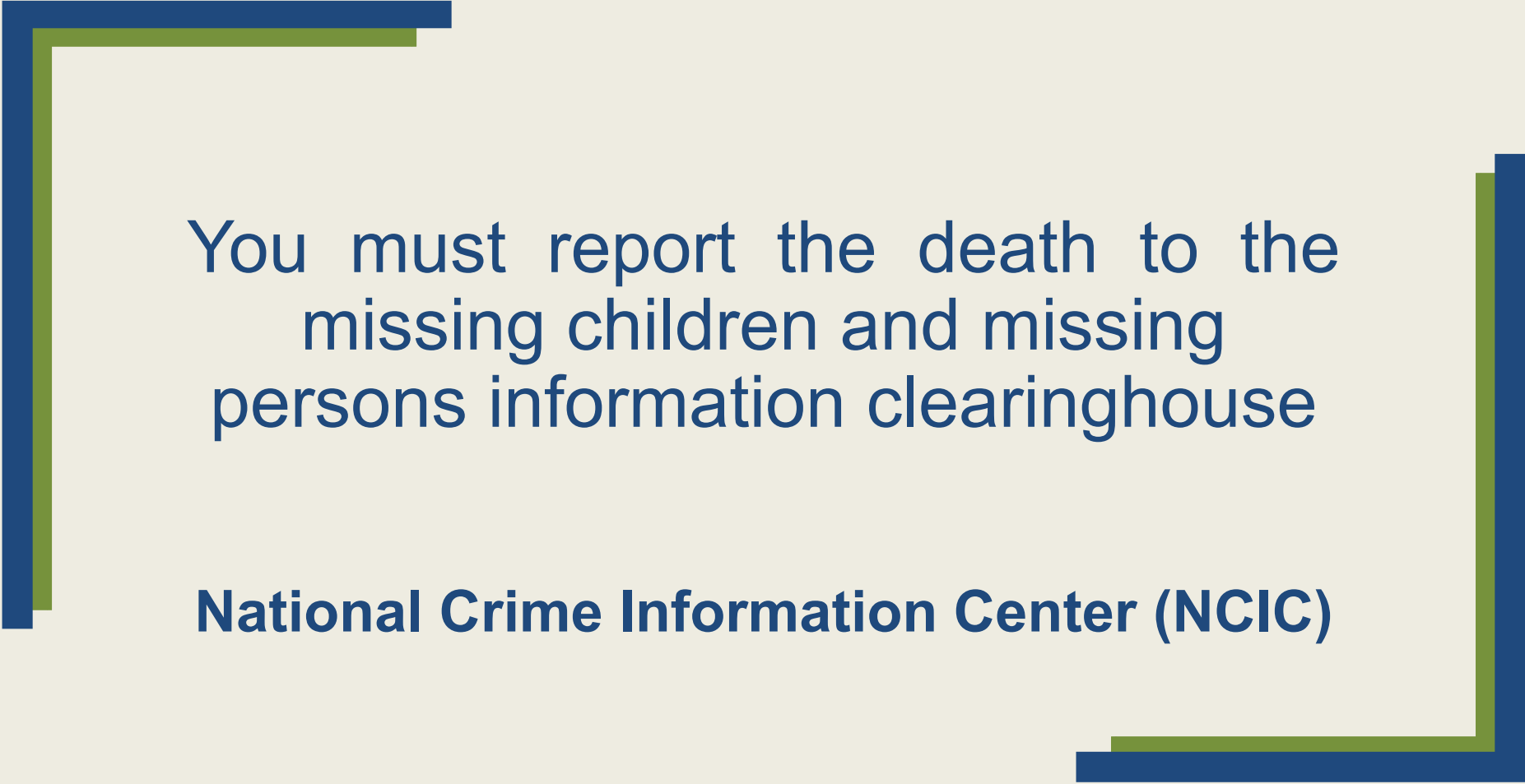
- DPS
- National Crime Information Center

By the 10th day after investigation began

- fingerprints
- hair color
- eye color
- height
- weight
- deformities
- tattoo marks

& other facts required for assistance in identifying the decedent

Department of Public Safety



You must report the death to the
missing children and missing
persons information clearinghouse

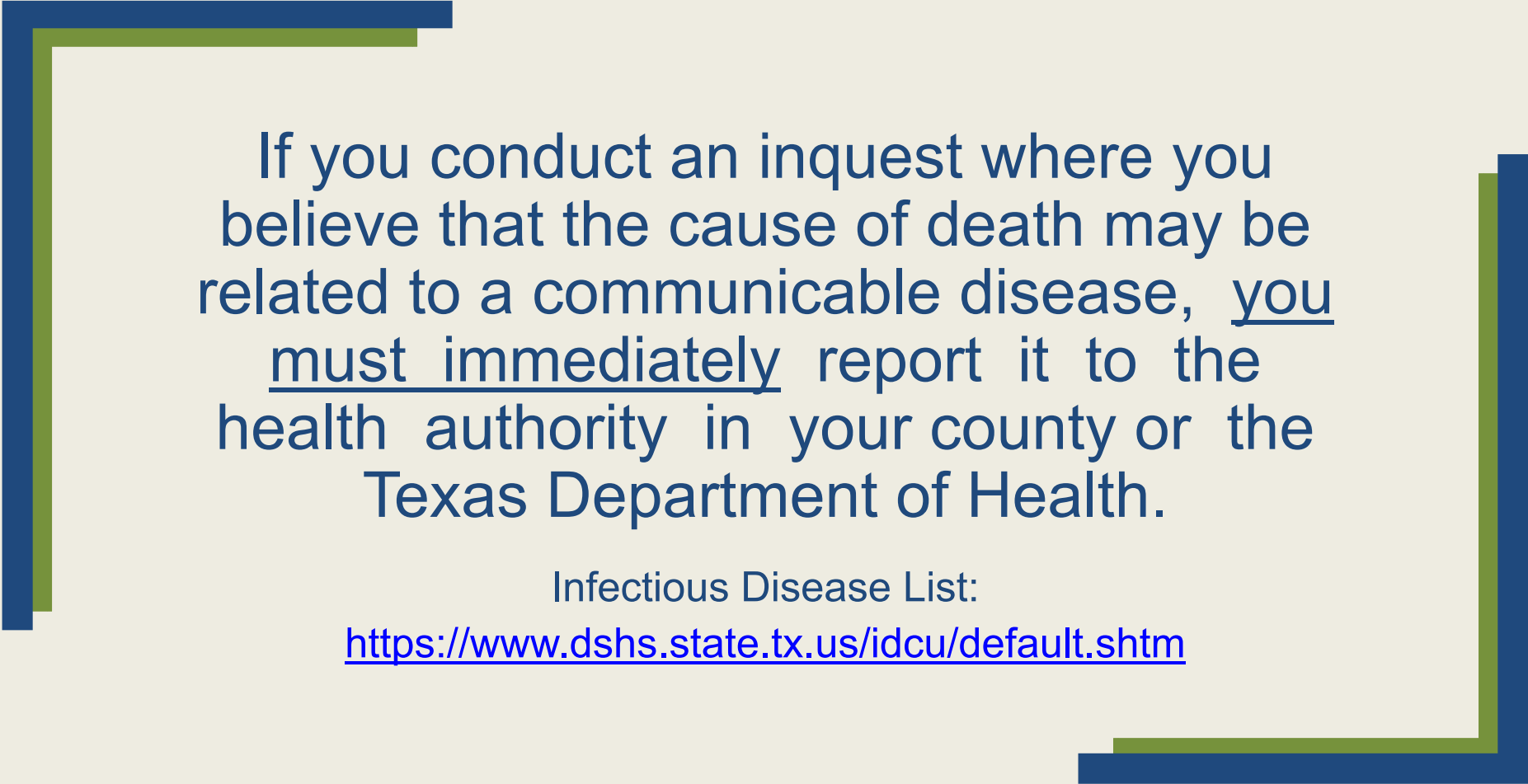
National Crime Information Center (NCIC)



Health & Safety Code §81.003 & 81.045(c)

Communicable Disease

“An illness that occurs through the transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic products from a reservoir to a susceptible host, either directly, as from an infected person or animal, or indirectly through an intermediate plant or animal host, a vector, or the inanimate environment”



If you conduct an inquest where you believe that the cause of death may be related to a communicable disease, you must immediately report it to the health authority in your county or the Texas Department of Health.

Infectious Disease List:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/default.shtm>



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Inicio en español

ABCDEF GHIJKLMN OPQRST UVWXYZ I All Topics

- HOME
- ABOUT DSHS
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- IDCU Home
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- D-G
- H-L
- M-Q
- R-S
- T-Z
- Healthcare Safety
- Vaccine Preventable Diseases
- IDCU Health Topics
- Disease Reporting
- Related Rules & Regulations
- Immunization Branch
- About IDCU
- Related DSHS Sites

Contact Us

Infectious Disease Control Unit
Mail Code: 1960
PO BOX 149347 - Austin, TX 78714-9347
1100 West 49th Street, Suite T801
Austin, TX 78714

Phone: (512) 776-7676
Fax: (512) 776-7616

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Infectious Disease Control Unit

Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Branch & Zoonosis Control Branch



[2018-2019 Texas Influenza Surveillance Activity Report](#)



[West Nile Virus](#)



[Zika Virus](#)



[Antibiotic Stewardship](#)



[2016 Texas Infectious Disease Annual Report](#)



[2019 Epi Case Criteria Guide](#)



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Last updated June 7, 2019





Health & Safety Code §193.011(c)-(f).

Suicide

- You report this data when you check the box for 'suicide' under "Manner of Death" on a death certificate.
- You can choose (as a county) to do additional data collection on suicide by entering into a memorandum of understanding with another authorized entity to share suicide data without naming the deceased.

Why would you want to do this?

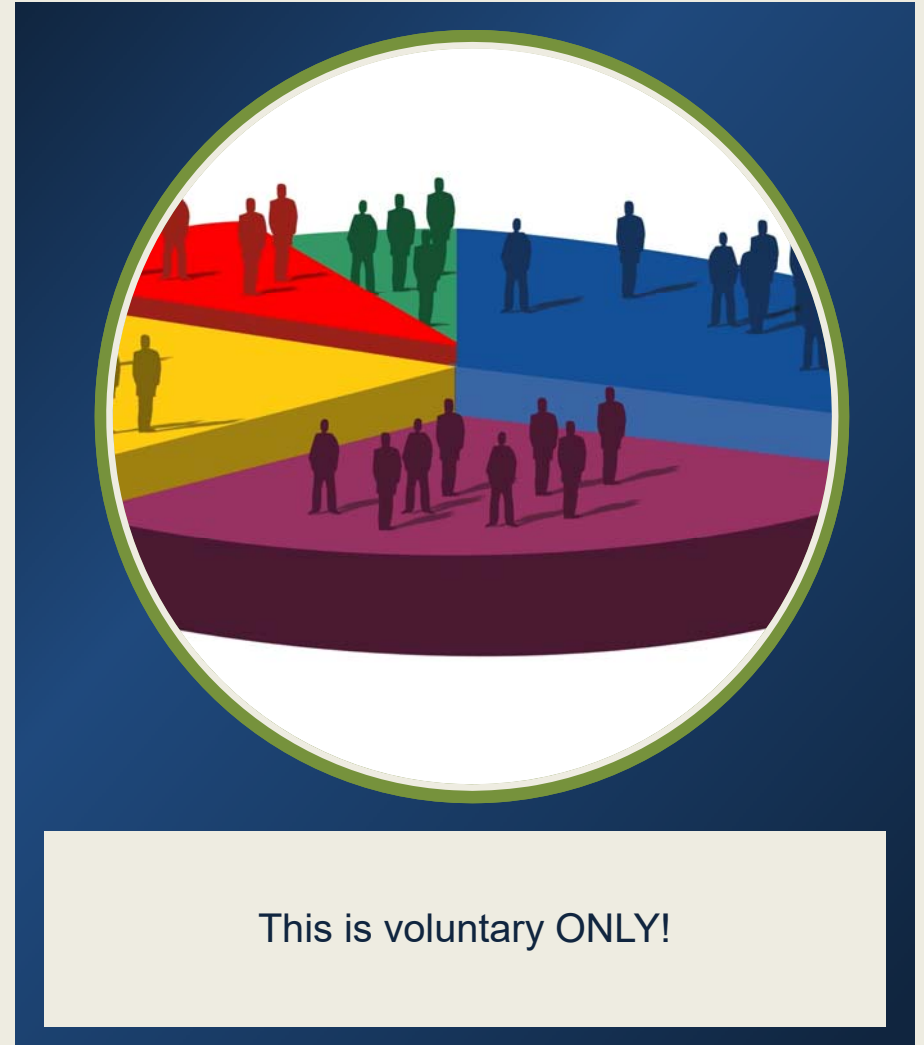
- Non-metro (rural) areas have a significantly higher suicide rate than metro areas. In 2015, the rate was 11% for metro areas and 17% for non-metro areas.
- From 2011 – 2015, Smith County had the highest average suicide rate in Texas.
- **Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S., and the 2nd leading cause of death for people aged 10–34.**

Nehme E, Oppenheimer D, Elerian N, Lakey D. (2017) Suicide in Texas. Austin, TX: University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler/University of Texas System

How to collect this data

The shared data may include:

- date of birth, race or national origin, gender, and zip code of residence
- any school or college the deceased individual was attending at the time of death
- the suicide method used by the deceased individual
- status as a veteran or member of the armed services
- date of the deceased individual's death.



NO civil or criminal liability is decreased is not named

MAY share data as authorized by law

Data is not confidential

An authorized entity under a memorandum of understanding may periodically release suicide data (without the name) to an agency or organization with recognized expertise in suicide prevention

That agency may only use the data for suicide prevention purposes.

Confidentiality & Use of Collected Data

tjctc.org

References:

Inquest Deskbook

*Recordkeeping &
Reporting Deskbook
(summer 2020)*





Thank you!