



# Death Notification Curriculum

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## Problem Identification

This project was started to train practicing paramedics and EMTs on how to appropriately provide death notifications in the field.

## Needs Assessment

We surveyed crews around Lake County, Florida and found that an overwhelming majority had never had any formal training on death notification in the pre-hospital setting.

## Goals and Objectives

- Better train paramedics and EMTs in the act of death notifications
- Learners will be able to relate information in an empathetic manner.
  - Learners will be able to organize a death notification message using the tools provided in this course.
  - Learners will be able to deliver the news that a loved one has died in a simulation environment.

## Charts

DOMAIN	Issues Identified	Evidence (source)	Action Items
Interpersonal communications	Lack of confidence in relaying information to family after calling codes on scene	I performed a simple poll during ACLS in January 2022. I found that of more than 100 students surveyed, less than 5 had ever been trained on how to notify family members of the passing of their loved ones	Created training to be done with each ACLS course that month.

**Lake EMS Evaluation Form**

Program Title: Death Notification Training

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box	Strongly Agree 5	Agree 4	Partly Agree 3	Disagree 2	N/A 1
The overall presentation was interesting					
These programs met realistic objectives					
The program will assist me in my work					
I would like more training in these areas					
Program length appropriate to cover stated areas					
The programs were presented at my educational level					
Program was offered at a good time for me to attend					
Teaching methodologies are appropriate for these topics					
I had an opportunity to get my questions answered					
I enjoyed the programs					
The facility was conducive to learning					
I liked:	I did not like:				

**Pre-Course Questionnaire**

1. While at work, have you ever had to tell a someone about the death of another person?

Yes  
 No

2. If yes, how many times have you done it?

Once  
 1-4 times  
 Greater than 5 times  
 Unsure how many times  
 Never

3. How confident were you that the news was being delivered in an effective, compassionate manner?

Extremely confident  
 Somewhat confident  
 Neutral  
 Somewhat not confident  
 Extremely not confident

4. Have you ever had any training on death notifications in the past? Either from EMT or paramedic school or as a CEU?

Yes  
 No  
 Maybe

5. If you have had training, where did you get it?

Paramedic or EMT school  
 CEU  
 Never had training

**Post Course Questionnaire and Evaluation**

1. Overall, I felt the course will help me in the future.

Yes  
 No  
 Maybe

2. After this course, I feel I will be better equipped to deliver a death notification.

Yes  
 No  
 Maybe

3. I learned something new today

Yes  
 No

4. What was the most helpful part of the course?

5. What was the least helpful part of the course?

## Educational Strategies

- Classroom
  - Lecture with examples and handouts
- Video-based training on LMS
  - Record presentation and deliver with handout
- Scenario-based education
  - Have actors play part of both recipient(s) and family. Allow students to deliver news in a simulated environment with different family reactions

## Implementation

Implementation in Lake County will be done through video-based training on Target Solutions (LMS). Best practices can be relayed during this time as well as a few commonly seen scenarios.

## Evaluation

- Initial evaluation will be a terminology/best practices exam.
- Evaluation of effectiveness will be based on pre and post training questionnaires regarding provider confidence in delivering news. Repeat evaluations at 6 and 12 months could determine if training was effective over long term.