

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8881

## IN SENATE

March 25, 2024

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Correction

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requiring the office of victim services to provide notification of potential eligibility for awards following the death of a victim of a crime who died as a direct result of such crime

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 625-b of the executive law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

4. In addition, the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services, in cooperation with the office, shall develop and implement a standardized procedure to be used by police officers, county sheriffs' departments and state police officers whereby family members and dependents who may be eligible to receive awards under this article are notified about the existence of such awards and the existence of any other relevant services or programs.

§ 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 7 of section 840 of the executive law, as added by chapter 531 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Develop, maintain and disseminate, in collaboration with the office of victim services, a model law enforcement death notification policy setting forth recommended policies and procedures regarding in-person death notifications to a deceased individual's next of kin. Such policies and procedures shall make provisions for education and training of current and new police officers in the planning, preparation, and delivery of in-person death notifications, including but not limited to, policies and procedures for:

(i) the identification of the deceased individual, the collection of accurate information regarding the deceased individual, and the identification of the deceased individual's next of kin; and

(ii) the actual delivery of in-person death notifications to the deceased's next of kin within twenty-four hours following the identifi-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 cation of such individual; provided, however, such policies and proce-  
2 dures shall provide that, in the event that an in-person death notifica-  
3 tion cannot be provided to the deceased individual's next of kin within  
4 such timeframe, the failure or delay of such notification shall be docu-  
5 mented and such notification shall instead be made as soon as practica-  
6 ble[-]; and

7 (iii) providing information to the deceased individual's next of kin  
8 regarding the existence of programs and support services available to  
9 them.

10 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 214-h of the executive law, as added by  
11 chapter 531 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

12 1. Develop, maintain and disseminate a model law enforcement death  
13 notification policy setting forth recommended policies and procedures  
14 regarding in-person death notifications to a deceased individual's next  
15 of kin. Such policies and procedures shall make provisions for education  
16 and training of current and new police officers in the planning, prepa-  
17 ration, and delivery of in-person death notifications, including but not  
18 limited to, policies and procedures for:

19 (a) the identification of the deceased individual, the collection of  
20 accurate information regarding the deceased individual, and the iden-  
21 tification of the deceased individual's next of kin; [and]

22 (b) the actual delivery of in-person death notifications to the  
23 deceased individual's next of kin within twenty-four hours following the  
24 identification of such individual; provided, however, such policies and  
25 procedures shall provide that, in the event that an in-person death  
26 notification cannot be provided to the deceased individual's next of kin  
27 within such timeframe, the failure or delay of such notification shall  
28 be documented and such notification shall instead be made as soon as  
29 practicable[-]; and

30 (c) providing information to the deceased individual's next of kin  
31 regarding the existence of programs and support services available to  
32 them.

33 § 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
34 have become a law.