

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7390

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

May 19, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. GONZALEZ-ROJAS, REYES, FORREST -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to certification of fetal death certificates by a midwife or physician assistant

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

1 Section 1. Section 4161 of the public health law, as amended by chap-  
2 ter 436 of the laws of 1967, the section heading and subdivisions 2 and  
3 3 as amended by chapter 153 of the laws of 2011, subdivisions 1 and 4 as  
4 amended by chapter 352 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 § 4161. Fetal death certificates; form and content[~~, physicians, nurse~~  
7 ~~practitioners, midwives, and hospital administrators~~]. 1. The certif-  
8 icate of fetal death and the report of fetal death shall contain such  
9 information and be in such form as the commissioner may prescribe;  
10 provided however that commencing on or after the implementation date  
11 under section forty-one hundred forty-eight of this article, information  
12 and signatures required by this subdivision shall be obtained and made  
13 in accordance with section forty-one hundred forty-eight of this arti-  
14 cle, except that unless requested by the woman neither the certificate  
15 nor the report of fetal death shall contain the name of the woman, her  
16 social security number or any other information which would permit her  
17 to be identified except as provided in this subdivision. The report  
18 shall state that a certificate of fetal death was filed with the commis-  
19 sioner and the date of such filing. The commissioner shall develop a  
20 unique, confidential identifier to be used on the certificate of fetal  
21 death to be used in connection with the exercise of the commissioner's  
22 authority to monitor the quality of care provided by any individual or  
23 entity licensed to perform an abortion in this state and to permit coor-  
24 dination of data concerning the medical history of the woman for  
25 purposes of conducting surveillance scientific studies and research

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

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1 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (j) of subdivision one of  
2 section two hundred six of this chapter.

3 2. In each case where a physician [~~or~~], nurse practitioner, midwife,  
4 or physician assistant was in attendance at or after a fetal death, it  
5 is the duty of such [~~physician or nurse~~] practitioner to certify to the  
6 birth and to the cause of death on the fetal death certificate. [~~Where a~~  
7 ~~nurse midwife was in attendance at a fetal death it is the duty of such~~  
8 ~~nurse midwife to certify to the birth but, he or she shall not certify~~  
9 ~~to the cause of death on the fetal death certificate.~~]

10 3. Fetal deaths occurring without the attendance of a [~~physician or~~  
11 ~~nurse~~] practitioner as provided in subdivision two of this section shall  
12 be treated as deaths without medical attendance, as provided in this  
13 article.

14 4. When a fetal death occurs in a hospital, except in those cases  
15 where certificates are issued by coroners or medical examiners, the  
16 person in charge of such hospital or his or her designated represen-  
17 tative shall promptly present the certificate to the physician [~~or~~],  
18 nurse practitioner, midwife, or physician assistant in attendance, or a  
19 physician [~~or~~], nurse practitioner, midwife, or physician assistant  
20 acting in his or her behalf, who shall promptly certify to the facts of  
21 birth and of fetal death, provide the medical information required by  
22 the certificate, sign the medical certificate of birth and death, and  
23 thereupon return such certificate to such person, so that the seventy-  
24 two hour registration time limit prescribed in section four thousand one  
25 hundred sixty of this title can be met; provided, however that commenc-  
26 ing on or after the implementation date under section forty-one hundred  
27 forty-eight of this article, information and signatures required by this  
28 subdivision shall be obtained and made in accordance with section  
29 forty-one hundred forty-eight of this article.

30 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.