

BLS DETERMINATION OF DEATH

• Confirm pulseless and apneic
• CPR may be withheld, and death declared if ANY of the following criteria below are met:

MCI Incident
Death is determined according to S.T.A.R.T. triage

Submersion ≥1 hour
Physical examination of body with accurate and reliable history of submersion time

Valid Advance Directive or POLST
Form indicates that resuscitation is not desired

Obvious Clinical Signs of Irreversible Death

- Rigor Mortis
- Dependent Lividity
- Decapitation
- Transection
- Decomposition
- Incineration

Significant MOI: BOTH must be present

- Evidence of significant trauma or blood loss
- Absence of potentially reversible cause of arrest

Consideration for ALS Care (ATG 6) – Strong family insistence on resuscitation and/or circumstances where scene or bystander safety is threatened.

When patient meets criteria for declaration of death in the field:

- Notify the appropriate law enforcement agency if applicable
- Remain on the scene until law enforcement or coroner arrive if applicable
- Complete a Field Determination of Death Form at scene and leave one copy for coroner if applicable