

Reporting a SUDI to the Procurator Fiscal

All SUDIs are reportable to the Procurator Fiscal (PF)

Police involvement

If there is any suggestion of any suspicious circumstances or anything to suggest that the death was not due to natural causes, the police should already be involved. They should also have contacted the PF who may wish to speak with staff. If the police are already involved there is no onus on you to contact the PF to report the death as the police will do so.

However, it may be that as the examining medical staff you are the first to notice the injuries or other circumstances giving rise to suspicion. If this is the case contact the police immediately and then the PF. If this finding occurs out-with office hours **contact the on-call PF**. In such cases you should also contact the Child Protection Health Team if the police have not already done so.

If a SUDI occurs out of hours (evening, or weekend)

Only urgent cases should be reported to the on-call PF. The on-call PF is on duty to deal with emergency situations only. For SUDIs this would only include cases involving suspected criminality. This should also include any death of a child where someone in the household is a known drug user. A SUDI would be classed as a non-urgent death and should be reported to the appropriate PF's office on the next working day, unless there is any suspicion of criminality.

Which PF office should the death be reported to?

Generally, deaths should be reported to the office in the area which the infant dies. This is the hospital where the death is pronounced not the address where the infant was discovered. In some instances such as remote and rural settings the death may be pronounced at home. In this instance the office in the nearest town to the address should be contacted. If you are in doubt, report the death to the office you think most appropriate and the PF can pass the report on to the correct office.