

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 20, 2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine and I are excited to announce the creation of a new and more comprehensive set of protocols (enclosed herein) for the investigation of infant and child deaths. In 2006, the Legislature amended *Neb. Rev. Stat. § 23-1824* through LB 1113, § 20 to require the Attorney General's Office to create guidelines for county coroners and coroner physicians regarding autopsies on persons less than nineteen years of age.

In response to LB 1113, my office collaborated with several county attorneys and coroner's physicians to create best practice guidelines. These guidelines were adopted by the Nebraska Attorney General's Office on July 1, 2007 and were subsequently circulated to all Nebraska County Attorneys, practicing Coroner's Physicians, Nebraska's Child Death Review Team, Nebraska's 1184 teams and Nebraska's Child Advocacy Centers.

While the original guidelines adequately reflected the Legislature's wishes to promote a standardized approach for the performance of autopsies in child death investigations, the new guidelines definitively establish best practice protocols for all disciplines routinely involved in child death investigations. They further emphasize the importance of communication, attention to detail and interagency cooperation.

In light of these improvements, we have supplanted the guidelines initially adopted by my office with these new guidelines. While these new guidelines, like their predecessors, were merely discretionary and advisory I would urge each of you to consider using these protocols whenever necessary and feasible. To further encourage and optimize the use of these new protocols, my office has agreed to work with Don Kleine and the Nebraska County Attorneys Association to develop training for these guidelines.

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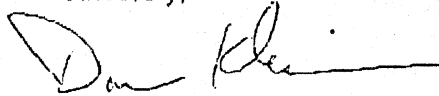
Finally, I would like to thank Don Kleine and Mr. Gene Klein with Project Harmony in Omaha for their efforts in helping put these new guidelines together. These guidelines, and the training which will accompany their adoption, will better equip Nebraska's law enforcement and prosecutors with the tools necessary to more effectively investigate and resolve these incredibly difficult but vitally important cases.

Don and I would be delighted to discuss any questions or suggestions you may have about these new protocols.

Sincerely,

JON C. BRUNING  
Nebraska Attorney General

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kleine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

DON KLEINE  
Douglas County Attorney