

Deaths Involving a Law Enforcement Officer 2024 Letter

Public Safety Article, Section 3-507(e)

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy

June 26, 2025

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor



DOROTHY LENNIG
Executive Director

June 26, 2025

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Public Safety Article § 3-507(e) (MSAR #15677)

Dear President Ferguson and Speaker Jones:

In accordance with § 3-507(e) of the Public Safety Article, which requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (Office) to submit a report on incidents of officer-involved civilian deaths and officer deaths in the line of duty, please accept this letter as notification that a report is forthcoming.

Section 3-507(e) of the Public Safety Article requires the Office to report specified information to the General Assembly by June 30 of each year, on qualifying deaths from the previous year. For the purpose of this report, § 3-507(b) of the Public Safety Article requires law enforcement agencies to report each officer-involved death and death in the line of duty that involved a law enforcement officer employed by the agency. Although annual reports have been submitted for nearly a decade, the Office received limited information for the current reporting period. Due to the low levels of proactive data submission, the Office uses the Office of the Attorney General's Independent Investigations Division (IID) website and information from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to discover most qualifying incidents. Once qualifying deaths are identified through IID and OCME, the Office will request additional information on unreported cases from law enforcement agencies. Given the time-intensive nature of the current data collection process, the Office seeks to change its methodology for the collection and verification of incidents to ensure the timely submission of qualifying incidents with complete information.

To aid in this effort, the Office released a request for proposal to solicit a program consultant to oversee the implementation and management of reporting protocols under the death in custody reporting act.¹ Because the reporting requirement for the federal act and § 3-507(e) of the Public Safety Article are similar, the consultant will coordinate data collection, analysis, reporting, and compliance related to death in custody incidents to ensure transparency, accountability, and adherence to federal regulations;

¹ Maryland Bid Network. *Deaths in Custody Reporting ACT (DCRA) Program Consultant (RFQ)*.
<https://www.marylandbids.com/government-agencies/anne-arundel/maryland-governors-office-of-crime-prevention-youth-and-victim-services-974105/14165524-deaths-in-custody-reporting-act-dcra-program-consultant-rfq.html>

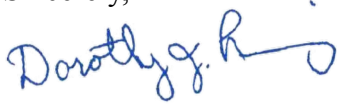
and oversee the completion and submission of qualifying cases for the current reporting period to ensure compliance with State law, and revise the methodology to collect and verify incidents for future reports.

In light of the recent audit findings of the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME),² the consultant will also conduct a three-year audit of prior data submissions, which will cover a period of 2021 through 2023. For these reasons, the Office will submit a report for the current reporting period as well as the audit findings within 30 days of receiving the necessary information from each agency.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

As required, five color copies will be sent to the DLS Legislative Library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dorothy J. Lennig".

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)

² Office of the Attorney General. (2025) *Attorney General Brown Announces Findings of Independent Audit of the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME): Audit Identifies Significant Misclassifications of Deaths, Calls for Review of Cases and Systemic Reforms* [Press Release]. <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2025/051525.pdf>