

1977 Senate Bill 122

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**CHAPTER 246, Laws of 1977**

AN ACT to create 146.025 and 979.125 of the statutes, relating to autopsies for victims of sudden infant death syndrome and providing information and counseling and increasing an appropriation.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 146.025 of the statutes is created to read:

**146.025 Sudden infant death syndrome.** (1) The department shall prepare and distribute printed informational materials relating to sudden infant death syndrome. The materials shall be directed toward the concerns of parents of victims of sudden infant death syndrome and shall be distributed to maximize availability to the parents.

(2) The department shall make available upon request follow-up counseling by trained health care professionals for parents and families of victims of sudden infant death syndrome.

SECTION 2. 979.125 of the statutes is created to read:

**979.125 Autopsy for sudden infant death syndrome.** If a child under the age of 2 years dies suddenly and unexpectedly under circumstances indicating that the death may have been caused by sudden infant death syndrome, the coroner or medical examiner shall notify the child's parents or guardian that an autopsy will be performed, at no cost to the parents or guardian, unless the parents or guardian object to the autopsy. The coroner or medical examiner shall conduct or shall order the conducting of an autopsy at county expense, unless parent or guardian requests in writing that an autopsy not be performed. If the autopsy reveals that sudden infant death syndrome is the cause of death, that fact

shall be so stated in the autopsy report. The parents or guardian of the child shall be promptly notified of the cause of death and of the availability of counseling services.

**SECTION 3. Appropriation increase.** The appropriation to the department of health and social services under section 20.435 (1) (a) of the statutes, as affected by the laws of 1977, is increased by \$14,400 in fiscal year 1977-78 and by \$18,450 in fiscal year 1978-79 for .5 permanent position and for preparation and distribution of printed materials and counseling services.

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