



Unexpected Fatality Review DOC Corrective Action Plan

Unexpected Fatality UFR-22-027 Report to the Legislature

As required by RCW 72.09.770

December 19, 2022

DOC Corrective Action, Publication Number 600-PL001

Cheryl Strange, Secretary
cheryl.strange@doc.wa.gov

Unexpected Fatality Review

DOC Corrective Action Plan

DOC Corrective Action Publication Number 600-PL001

Legislative Directive

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill [5119](#) (2021)

Unexpected Fatality Review Governance

[RCW 72.09.770](#) requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to convene an Unexpected Fatality Review (UFR) committee and meeting in any case “in which the death of an incarcerated individual is unexpected, or any case identified by the Office of the Corrections Ombuds.” The department is also required to issue a report on the results of the review within 120 days of the fatality and, within 10 days of completion of the review, develop an associated corrective action plan to implement any recommendations made by the review team. The statute took effect July 25, 2021.

The “primary purpose of the unexpected fatality review shall be the development of recommendations to the department and legislature regarding changes in practices or policies to prevent fatalities and strengthen safety and health protections for prisoners in the custody of the department.”

“‘Unexpected fatality review’ means a review of any death that was not the result of a diagnosed or documented terminal illness or other debilitating or deteriorating illness or condition where the death was anticipated and includes the death of any person under the jurisdiction of the department, regardless of where the death actually occurred. A review must include an analysis of the root cause or causes of the unexpected fatality, and an associated corrective action plan for the department to address identified root causes and recommendations made by the unexpected fatality review team under this section.”

Unexpected Fatality Review Committee Report

The department issued the UFR committee report 22-027 on December 9, 2022 (DOC publication 600-SR001). This document includes the required corrective action plan. The department is required to implement the corrective actions within 120 days of the publication of the committee report.

Corrective Action Plan

CAP ID Number:	UFR-22-027-1
Finding:	The incarcerated individual was not referred for a substance use disorder (SUD) assessment or offered sobriety support services while incarcerated.
Root Cause:	Current DOC medical and case management processes lack clear direction for when to refer an individual for support services.
Recommendation:	Review and refine the current SUD referral process to provide clear direction for staff to follow when assisting an individual who reports a history of illicit substance use in maintaining their sobriety.
Corrective Action:	Schedule a Value Stream Mapping for stakeholders to evaluate and make process recommendations for assisting individuals with a history of illicit substance use in maintaining their sobriety.
Expected Outcome:	Individuals will have support maintaining their sobriety during incarceration and after their return to the community.