

Ventura County EMS Determination of Death

Obvious Death

Decapitation, Incineration, Hemicorporectomy, or Decomposition

OR

Rigor, Lividity, Catastrophic head trauma

Confirmed non-responsive, pulseless, and not breathing.

YES

NO

TRAUMATIC ETIOLOGY

*Blunt or penetrating trauma
(sufficient to cause death)*

MEDICAL ETIOLOGY

*Drowning,
ingestion, asphyxiation,
hanging, poisoning,
lightning strike, electrocution.*

PEDIATRIC

Patient < 18 Y.O.

ADULT

Patient ≥ 18Y.O.

TRAUMA CENTER

*ETA
< 20 Minutes*

NO

YES

**BLS PROVIDER
TREAT NOW**

**ALS PROVIDER
ASSESS ECG**

Initial Rhythm

Asystole or Wide Complex PEA Rate < 30

YES

NO

DOD

*Withhold or Discontinue
Resuscitation*

TREAT

*Reference applicable 705
protocols. Plan to resuscitate
on scene.*

TRANSPORT DECISIONS

*Transport vs continued
resuscitation on scene vs
termination of resuscitative efforts
according to policy 733 Cardiac
Arrest Management*

TREAT

TRANSPORT TO TRAUMA CENTER
*Resuscitation while minimizing time to
trauma center arrival according to
705.29 traumatic arrest.*