

**VALLEYCARE
OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 126
VERSION: 2**

SUBJECT/TITLE: TERMINATED PREGNANCIES

POLICY: Disposition of the terminated fetuses will follow the state guidelines.

PURPOSE: To ensure appropriate handling of terminated fetuses and ensure timely disposition.

DEPARTMENTS: All

DEFINITIONS:

- PROCEDURE:**
1. Fetuses 20 weeks or less and 400 grams or less are considered specimens and are handled by the Department of Pathology according to their policy and procedure.
 2. Terminated fetuses that are 20 weeks or greater, or 400 grams or greater, that do not take a breath will be dispositioned as described below:
 - a. If the mother or the father wants the fetus for a service, social work will generate the “Verification of Pregnancy Termination” letter (see attached). The fetus will then be released to the mortuary.
 - b. If the mother or the father does not want the fetus, the physician will report the termination of pregnancy to the Coroner’s office by completing the Coroner’s Form #18. The fetus will then be released to the Coroner’s office.
 3. Terminated fetuses that take a breath regardless of weight or age need to be reported to the Coroner’s office by the physician.

References:	
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