## Senate Bill 850 and Domicile Unknown Reporting: Medical Examiners



The passing of <u>Senate Bill 850</u> established mandatory reporting of housing status on reports of death. Beginning January 1, 2022, reports of death were required to list the residence address as "**Domicile Unknown**" for decedents who were homeless at the time of death.

Enter "**Domicile Unknown**" in the Street Name field on the Resident Address page in OVERS. This includes decedents who were homeless but receiving care at a hospital or other institution.

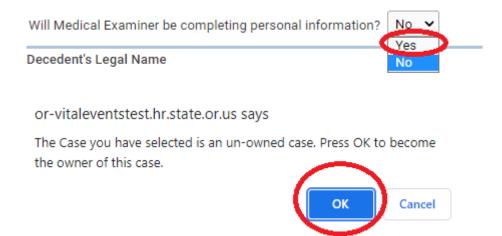
While there are several terms used to describe a homeless individual including houseless, unhoused and people without housing, the phrase used in Senate Bill 850 is "a decedent who was homeless."

A homeless individual is defined as:

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
- An individual living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to
  provide temporary living arrangements (including hotels and motels paid for by Federal,
  State, or local government programs for low-income individuals or by charitable
  organizations, congregate shelters, and transitional housing);
- An individual who resided in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation and who
  is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

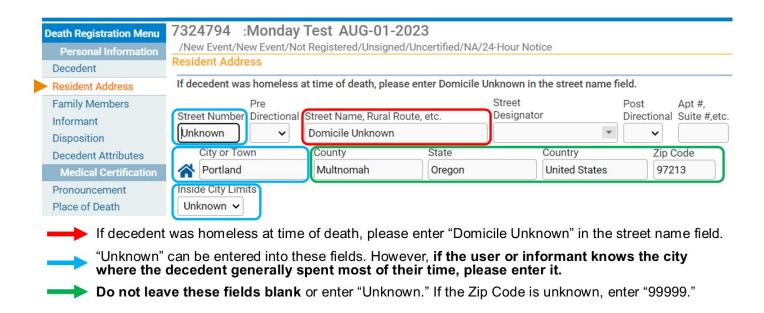
Click <u>here</u> for the U.S. Code for the complete general definition of a homeless individual that includes additional examples.

If the Medical Examiner will be entering the personal information on the death report, they first select **Yes** from the **Will Medical Examiner be completing personal information?** drop down menu on the Decedent page in OVERS. A pop-up window will appear where they will click **OK** to take ownership of the case.





The Medical Examiner will now have access to enter information on the Resident Address page in OVERS. For homeless individuals enter "**Domicile Unknown**" in the **Street Name, Rural Route, etc.** field for individuals who were homeless at the time of the death.



Other fields on the **Resident Address** page should be filled out to the best of the user or informant's knowledge.

"Unknown" can be entered in the **Street Number, City or Town**, and **Inside City Limit**s fields. "Unknown" **cannot** be entered in the **County, State, Country** or **Zip Code** fields. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE THESE FIELDS BLANK**. If the Zip Code is truly unknown, enter 99999.

**Do NOT** enter "Unknown," "Homeless," "Houseless" or "None" in the "Street Name, Rural Route, etc." field for homeless decedents.

**Do Not** enter approximate locations of where a person was camping like "the corner of Halsey and 72nd streets." Only enter "**Domicile Unknown**."

For questions about registering death records for decedents who were homeless at the time of death, email <a href="mailto:CHS.Registration@oha.oregon.gov">CHS.Registration@oha.oregon.gov</a>.