

Autopsy Consideration

1117.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

As a component of the medicolegal death investigation, decedents transported to the Coroner Division Facility may undergo a postmortem examination (complete autopsy, partial examination, or external examination) in order to establish the cause of death. This policy provides rules and guidelines to assist with the evaluation of each case in order to determine the degree of examination(s) warranted.

1117.2 PRELIMINARY BODY EXAMINATION BY DEPUTY CORONER

All decedents scheduled for postmortem examination at the Coroner Division Facility shall first be examined by a Deputy Coroner. Examination may take place either at the death location or at the Coroner Division Facility.

1117.3 REVIEW PROCESS

The on-duty Watch Commander shall review the Deputy Coroner's case report and carefully assess the case history and circumstances. Following case review, the Watch Commander shall determine which level of autopsy is most appropriate. In the event of a disagreement between the Watch Commander and Coroner pathologist, the final decision shall be made by the Coroner Division Commander or his/her designee.