



### **Autopsy Procedures for “Affiliate Hospitals”**

The MUSC Medical and Forensic Autopsy Section American Board of Pathology (ABP) certified Anatomic Pathologists are pleased to provide postmortem examinations by contractual agreement with surrounding hospitals without facilities for such procedures.

#### **The “Affiliate Hospital” will provide the following:**

- 1) Advance notification of a pending case (call Mortuary Services at **843 792-4470**)
- 2) Completed “Consent for Postmortem Examination” (fax to **843 792-3537**) to include
  - a. Evidence of physician order for the case
  - b. Witnessed, dated [next of kin](#) signature (original to accompany decedent)
  - c. Indication of examination extent
  - d. Requesting physician information: email, phone, availability
  - e. Principle diagnoses, potential autopsy hazards, clinicopathological correlations requested
  - f. Directions for disposition of the body following examination
- 3) Transportation to the MUSC morgue with estimation of arrival time
- 4) Appropriate and adequate medical records to accompany the decedent and provide pathologist with case-based directives including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Emergency room record (if applicable)
  - b. History and Physical
  - c. Nursing notes from last 24 hours; code sheet (if applicable)
  - d. Physician progress notes (minimum first and last 48 hours of hospitalization)
  - e. Lab summary sheets
  - f. Radiology reports
- 5) Timely Laboratory Fee payment

#### **MUSC will provide the following:**

- 1) Information regarding case scheduling (i.e. when the case may be expected to be performed)
- 2) Attempt to contact named physician regarding the case prior to and following examination
- 3) Postmortem examination as directed by the Authorization Form
- 4) Notification of indicated funeral home upon completion of autopsy and release of the body
- 5) Autopsy report including gross examination, microscopic examination and indicated ancillary testing results not to exceed 150 working days barring extended receipt of outside testing/analyses
- 6) Report mailed to Affiliate Hospital Medical Records
- 7) Notification of case verification will be made to requesting physician if email is provided

Any autopsy examinations requested by the family/next-of-kin and without physician order will be at the family’s expense and accompanied by the MUSC Authorization for Autopsy located on the Web Site under Private Autopsy; no “Affiliate Hospital” actions are required: <http://www.musc.edu/pathology/AP/Autopsy/private.htm>

In addition, the family may contact the Medical and Forensic Autopsy Section directly at **(843) 792 3500**.

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