
By: Delegate Guns

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Medical Examiner - Autopsy - Notification of Families**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the medical examiner to notify the family of the deceased
4 prior to moving the body for an autopsy from the county where the death occurred;
5 providing that, when possible, the medical examiner shall allow the family to view
6 the body prior to removal for an autopsy; and generally relating to notification of
7 families before removal for an autopsy.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 5-310(b)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Health - General**

16 5-310.

17 (b) (1) If the medical examiner who investigates a medical examiner's case
18 considers an autopsy necessary, the Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical
19 Examiner, an assistant medical examiner, or a pathologist authorized by the Chief
20 Medical Examiner shall perform the autopsy.

21 (2) If the family of the deceased objects to an autopsy on religious grounds,
22 the autopsy may not be performed unless authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner or by
23 the Chief Medical Examiner's designee.

24 (3) PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING A BODY FROM THE COUNTY WHERE THE
25 DEATH OCCURRED FOR PURPOSES OF AN AUTOPSY, THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IN
26 CHARGE OF THE BODY SHALL NOTIFY THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED, AND, WHEN
27 POSSIBLE, ALLOW THE FAMILY THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE BODY PRIOR TO IT
28 BEING TRANSPORTED.

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 1997.

