

Fisher, Chief Medical Examiner, had informed you that he intended to request legislation permitting his Department to destroy records which had been microfilmed. Section 8 of Article 22 of the 1951 Code provides that:

"It shall be the duty of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Deputy Medical Examiners, to keep full and complete records in their respective offices, properly indexed, giving the name, if known, of every such person, the place where the body was found, date and cause of death, and all other available information relating thereto. The original report of the Chief Medical Examiner, \* \* \* and the detailed findings of the autopsy, if any, shall be attached to the record of each case. \* \* \*"

See 38 Opinions of the Attorney General, 242.

It is the opinion of this office that all original records in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and those in any other branch of the State government required to maintain permanent records, whether microfilm has been made or not, must be kept unless the present law be amended by the Legislature, allowing the destruction of the same.

SP:MH

Very truly yours,  
Stedman Prescott, Jr.  
Asst. Attorney General

July 1, 1955.

DEPARTMENT OF PAROLE AND PROBATION,  
State Office Building,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

*Attention: Mrs. Mary K. Rogers.*

DEAR MRS. ROGERS:

You have inquired whether the Department of Parole and Probation is required to preserve its original records or whether it may, with the consent and approval of the Hall of Records Commission, provide for microfilming, and thereby clear the files of large quantities of material.

Under the provisions of Article 41, Section 91-K of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1954 Supplement), the Department of