

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

(c) (1) [If the family of the deceased does not object, a] A medical examiner shall conduct an autopsy of any fire fighter AND ANY SWORN PERSONNEL OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE [whose death in the line of duty appears to be fire related, or to have been caused by the inhalation of toxic gases or toxic fire atmospheres.] WHO DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR AS A RESULT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(2) The autopsy shall include:

(i) A toxicological analysis for toxic fumes;

(ii) Gross and microscopic studies of heart, lung, and any other tissue involved;

(iii) Appropriate studies of blood and urine;
and

(iv) Appropriate studies of body fluids and body tissues.

(3) If the medical examiner determines toxic fumes were the cause of death, the medical examiner shall: [prepare]

(I) INVESTIGATE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE SOURCE OF THE FUMES; AND

(II) PREPARE a written report on the specific effects of the fumes on human tissue.

(4) [In the case of a fire fighter who dies in the line of duty, the] THE AUTOPSY AND analysis shall be sufficient to determine eligibility for benefits under the federal Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976.

(d) The individual who performs the autopsy shall prepare detailed written findings during the progress of the autopsy. These findings and the conclusions drawn from them shall be filed in the office of the medical examiner for the county where the death occurred. The original copy of the findings and conclusions shall be filed in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

(e) The Chief Medical Examiner shall set a reasonable fee for performing an autopsy by an authorized pathologist.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.